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STAR TREK[®]

DEEP SPACE NINE[™]

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

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EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW

AVERY
BROOKS
COMMANDING
THE SPACE
STATION



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SPACE
THOUGHTS
FROM
CO-CREATOR
RICK
BERMAN
& THE
CAST

DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 11, 1993

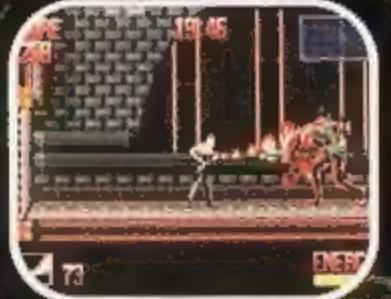
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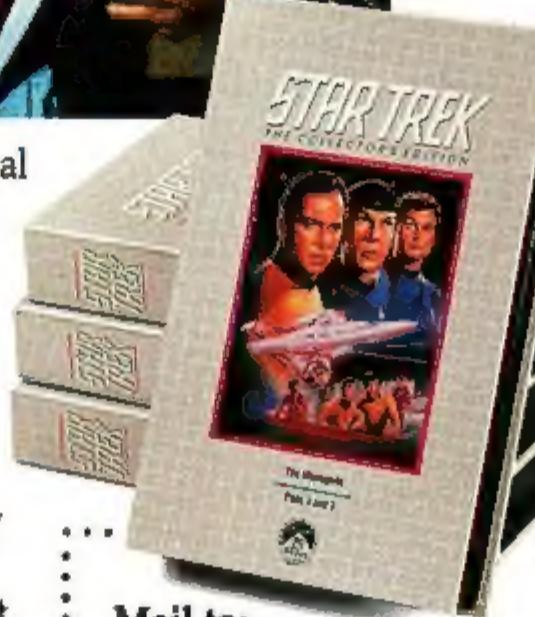
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STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE™

Co-Creator

BY IAN SPELLING

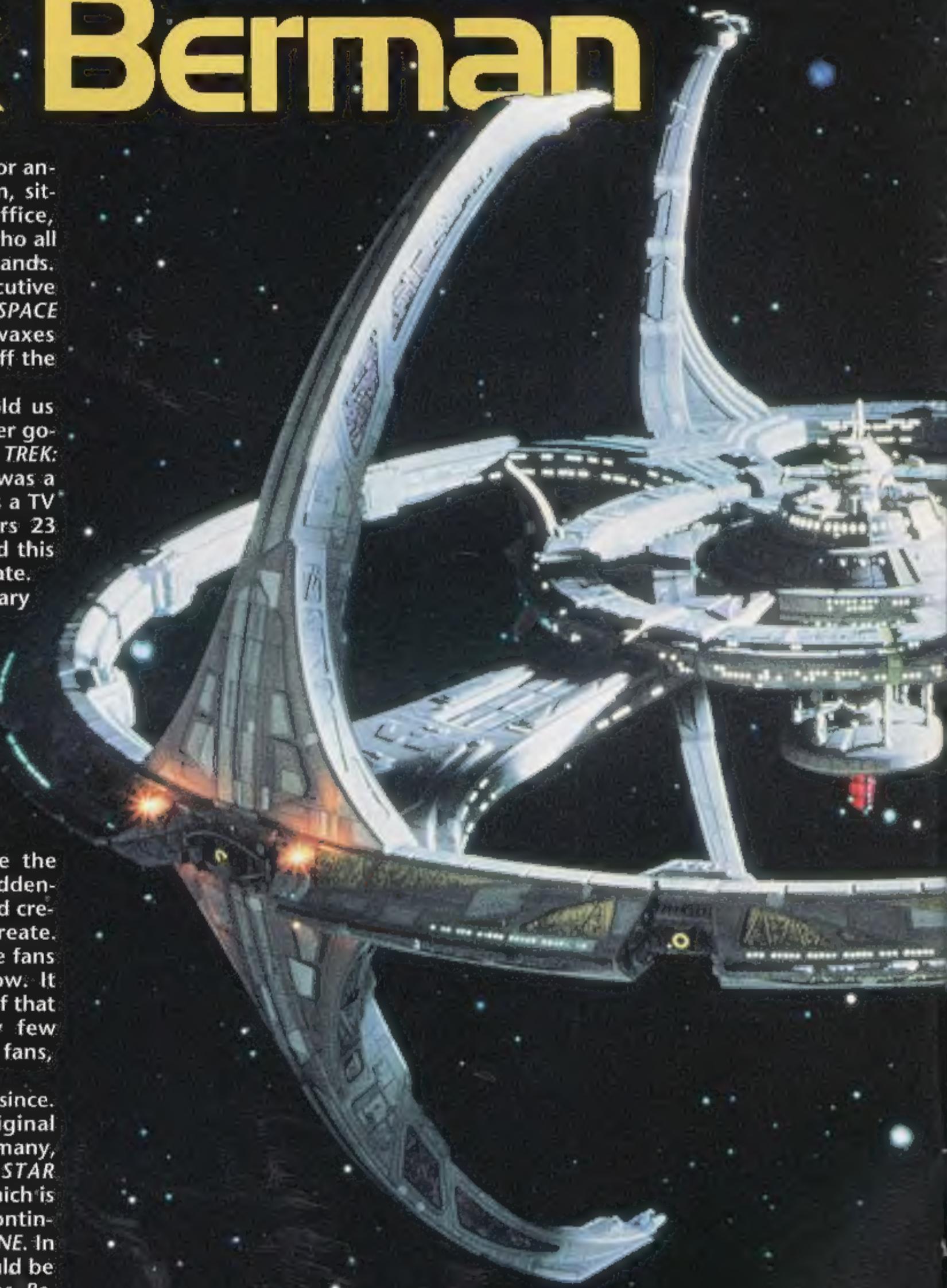
Rick Berman

Are *STAR TREK* fans ready for another *TREK*? Rick Berman, sitting in his spacious office, smiles the smile of a producer who all but knows he has a hit on his hands. Yet, the co-creator and co-executive producer of *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* (with Michael Piller), waxes diplomatic, as the show is just off the launching pad.

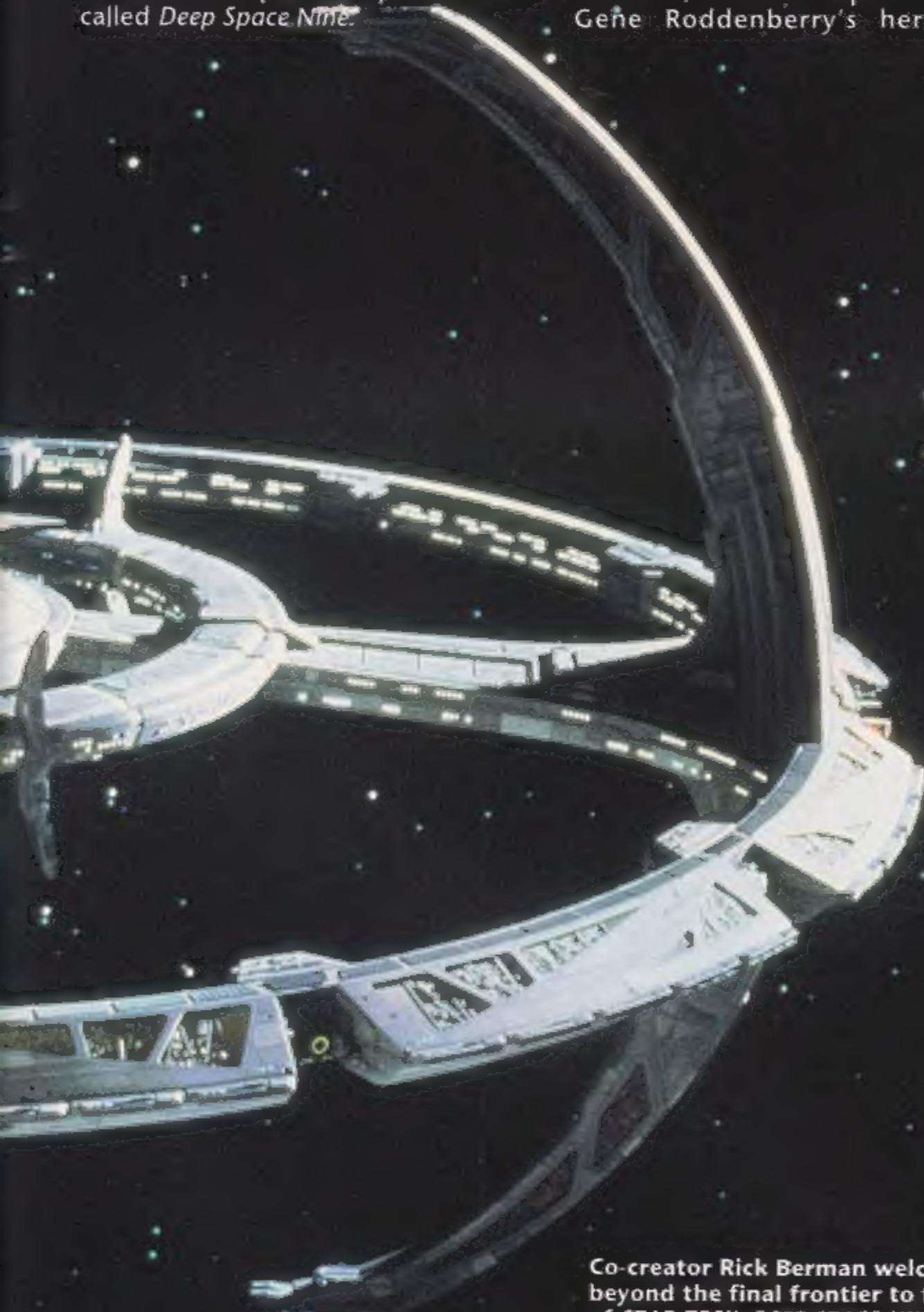
"Six years ago everybody told us that *STAR TREK* fans were not ever going to take to the idea of a *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*. There was a lot of resistance. *STAR TREK* was a TV show that had run three years 23 years earlier and it had achieved this cult status, this mythological state. It was no longer a contemporary show," says Berman. "The original *STAR TREK* was something people held remarkably dear to them, and they still do. There was definitely a feeling that, 'You're going to screw with *STAR TREK*, screw with that myth. Good luck!'"

"There was a lot of negative feeling from some fans before the show ever started. To Gene Roddenberry's credit, he went ahead and created the show he wanted to create. After less than half a season, the fans openly embraced the new show. It was a great feeling. By the end of that first season, there were very few longtime, hard-core *STAR TREK* fans, who were still very resistant."

"And we haven't looked back since. Those fans now have the original *STAR TREK*, which still runs in many, many markets, and they have *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, which is in its sixth season. Now," he continues, "they'll have *DEEP SPACE NINE*. In the same way that *Gunsmoke* could be on the air at the same time as *Bonanza*, I believe *THE NEXT GENERATION* and *DEEP SPACE NINE* can be on the air at the same time and that both of them can be very successful. I honestly believe *STAR TREK* fans are ready to embrace a new *STAR TREK* series, and I think they will."



What viewers are seeing each week, of course, are the adventures of Commander Benjamin Sisko (Avery Brooks), Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor), Odo (René Auberjonois), Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell), Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney), Dr. Julian Bashir (Siddig El Fadil), Ferengi bartender Quark (Armin Shimerman), and Sisko's young son, Jake (Cirroc Lofton). All of them, Starfleet officers and non-Starfleet officers alike, must co-exist on the inhospitable space station called *Deep Space Nine*.



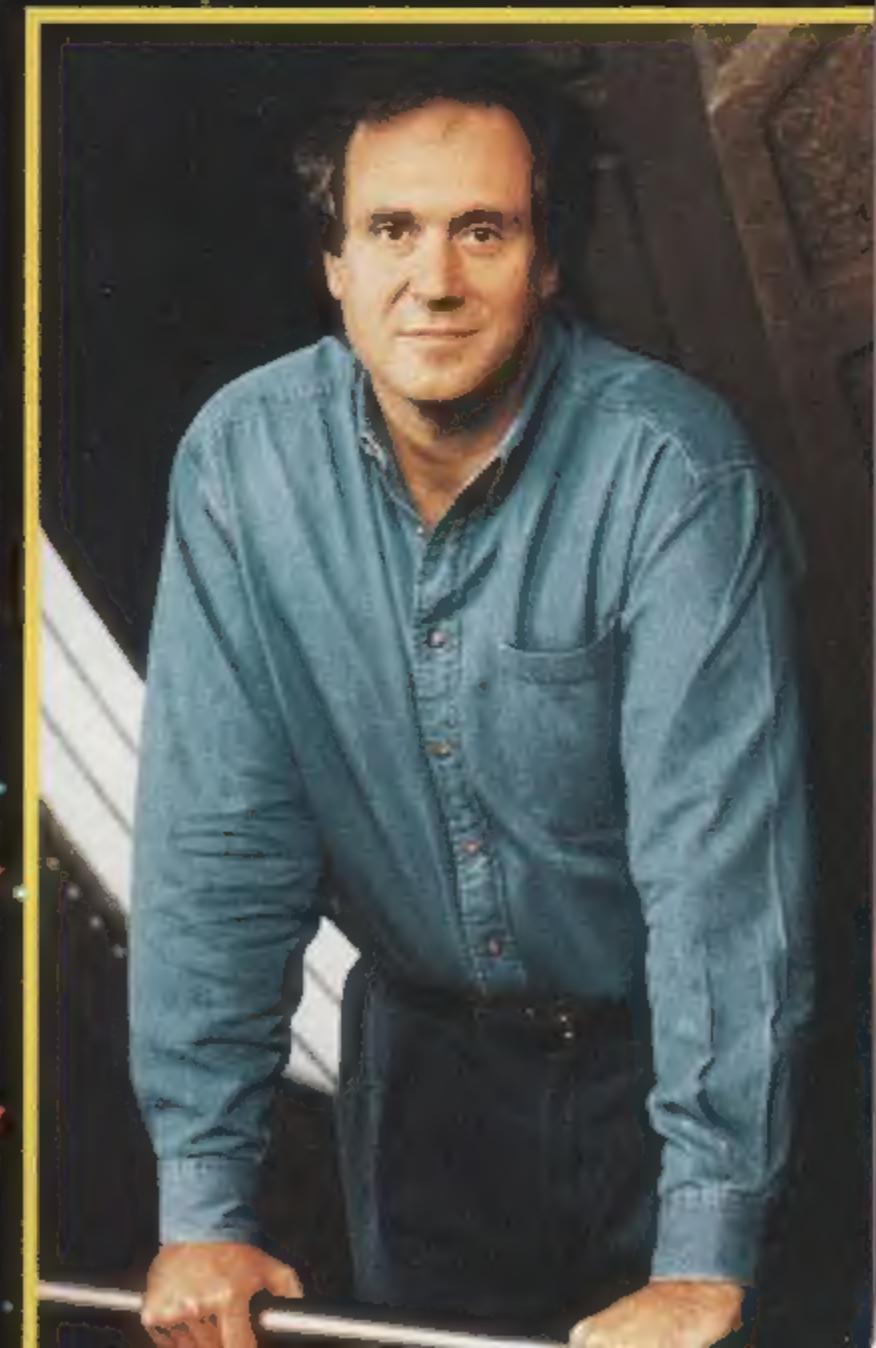
Co-creator Rick Berman welcomes you beyond the final frontier to the world of *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*.

Berman fills in the details of how the series evolved. "Michael Piller and I realized *THE NEXT GENERATION* would have at least one year, maybe two or three years left in it, and that these two shows would be running at the same time. As a result, we knew our new show couldn't have a starship in it. At the same time, we had to have a show that focused on the members of Starfleet and people with the attitudes, beliefs and philosophies of Gene Roddenberry's heroes. We

needed a group of people who fit into Gene's vision of the future," notes Berman, "not my vision, not Michael's vision, not anybody else's. There are very specific rules in Gene's vision of the future."

"A whole nomenclature has developed over the last 27 years. We had to deal with that, with that positive attitude, with Gene's theory of where mankind will be in the 24th Century. We had to deal with all of the technology and terminology that has existed in the previous two shows. At the same time, we had to make *DEEP SPACE NINE* different from them."

The difference had to be this. If Berman and Piller couldn't send a starship on an extended mission to explore new worlds, then perhaps they could create a place, in the same time frame as *THE NEXT GENERATION* (to allow for crossover between characters), where new worlds might come and explore for themselves. "Michael and I had, a year before, written a story for 'Ensign Ro,' in which we created a world called Bajor. We set up a wormhole, a short cut through space. We decided to go back to that premise," says Berman, "and establish the space station. We brought back this imperial race, the Cardassians, who abandon the space station and Bajor, the planet they were mining. After a long period of war, the political situation has become such that the Federation is asked to come in and take over the space station, to protect the wormhole. And we built upon that story."



"There are very specific rules in Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future."

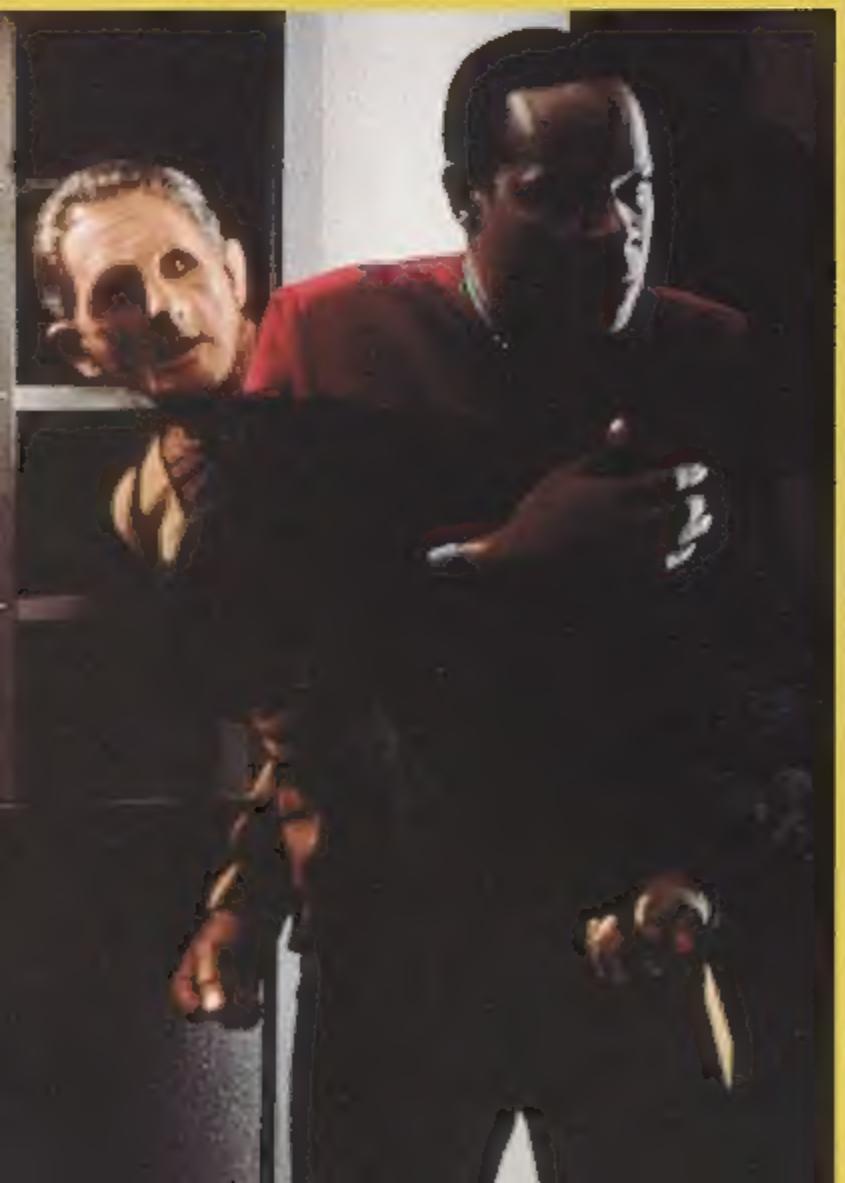


Tremendous care, Berman notes, goes into every aspect of the series—from the costumes and makeup to the special FX and models (like this Runabout).

"We're going to introduce some actors who will be big stars," Berman says, pointing to Terry Farrell (who portrays Jadzia Dax).



Photo: Julie Dennis



After more than five years of producing *THE NEXT GENERATION*, Berman and Piller knew there were certain plot and relationship elements they didn't want to repeat and several they wanted to explore further. "Let me put it like this, if you live in the same house for six years and you suddenly get an opportunity to build a brand new house, you're going to say to yourself, 'I'm not going to make the ceiling so low this time' or 'We've got to remember to put the family room off the kitchen this time.' You learn from that first experience what you want and don't want the second time around.

"One of the main things we learned from doing five years of *THE NEXT GENERATION* was that we needed to create some degree of tension, of conflict between our char-

Berman feels blessed to have such extraordinary actors as Rene Auberjonois and Avery Brooks in this new series.

acters. We couldn't do that on *THE NEXT GENERATION* because Gene felt, six years ago when *THE NEXT GENERATION* was created, that he didn't want 24th Century Starfleet officers in any conflict with each other. They had evolved beyond that. Well, that may be great for humanity, but it's not so great for writing. We didn't want to create conflict at the expense of Gene's rules, but we did want that conflict.

"What we came up with was a situation where our officers would no longer be on a state-of-the-art spaceship flying through the heavens, as they were on both previous *STAR TREKS*. We would put them in an un-

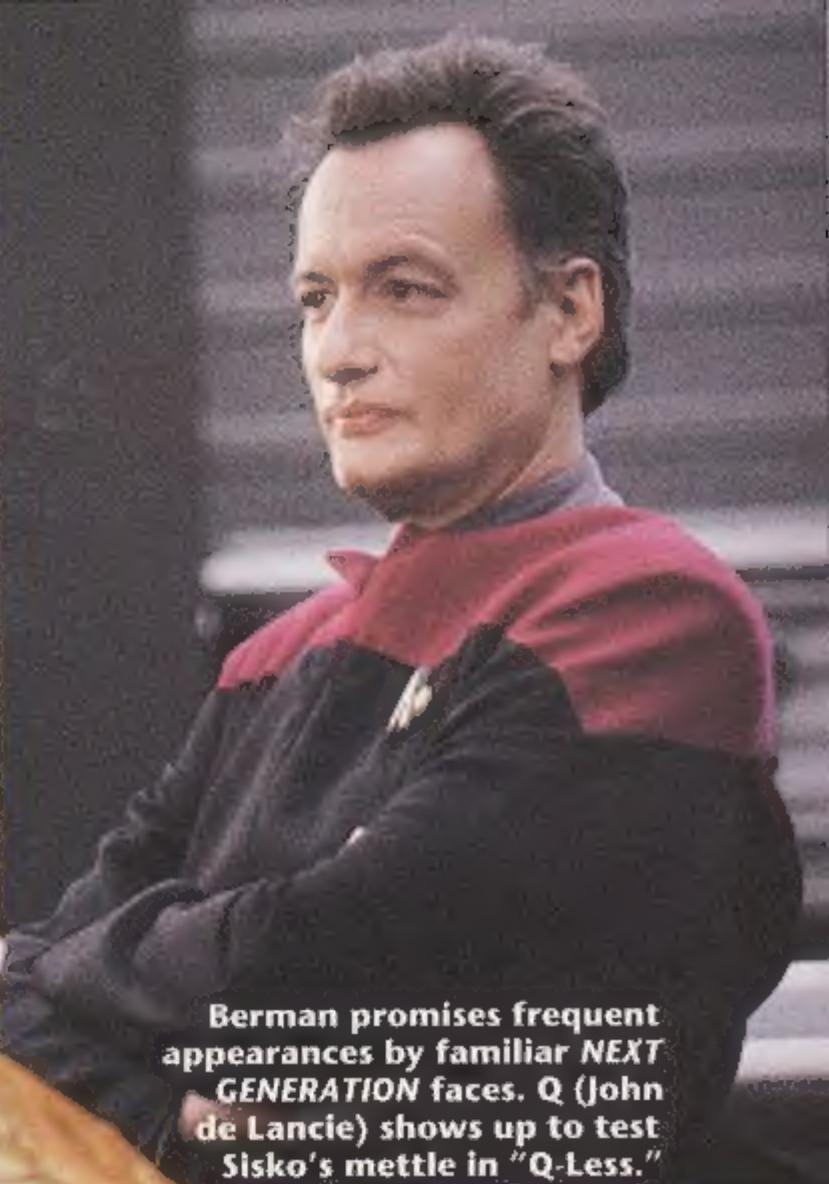
"I honestly believe **STAR TREK** fans
are ready to embrace a new series."



comfortable, alien place that they don't completely understand. That permits conflict right there. We also decided they would be on the space station with many people they don't like and who don't care for them, either. They would also have to work with people who were not Starfleet officers. As a result," he continues, "these non-Starfleet people are not tied into the Roddenberry rule of non-conflict. Out of all of this came months of work for Michael and me, where we created an entire bible that explained the existence of what we were going to show in the world of *DEEP SPACE NINE*."

After devising all of that—the

wormhole, the space station, how Starfleet (following the negotiations) arrived on the scene, the character relationships, and who they would encounter—Berman and Piller tied it together with a story about a single character's quest for self-redemption. "Benjamin Sisko is carrying a lot of very uncomfortable baggage with him because of an incident that happened a number of years ago, in which his wife was killed, and through a semi-mystical experience he goes through upon arriving at this planet," says Berman. "In the course of our first two hours ["Emissary"], he has come to terms with a great many of the problems that have existed in his

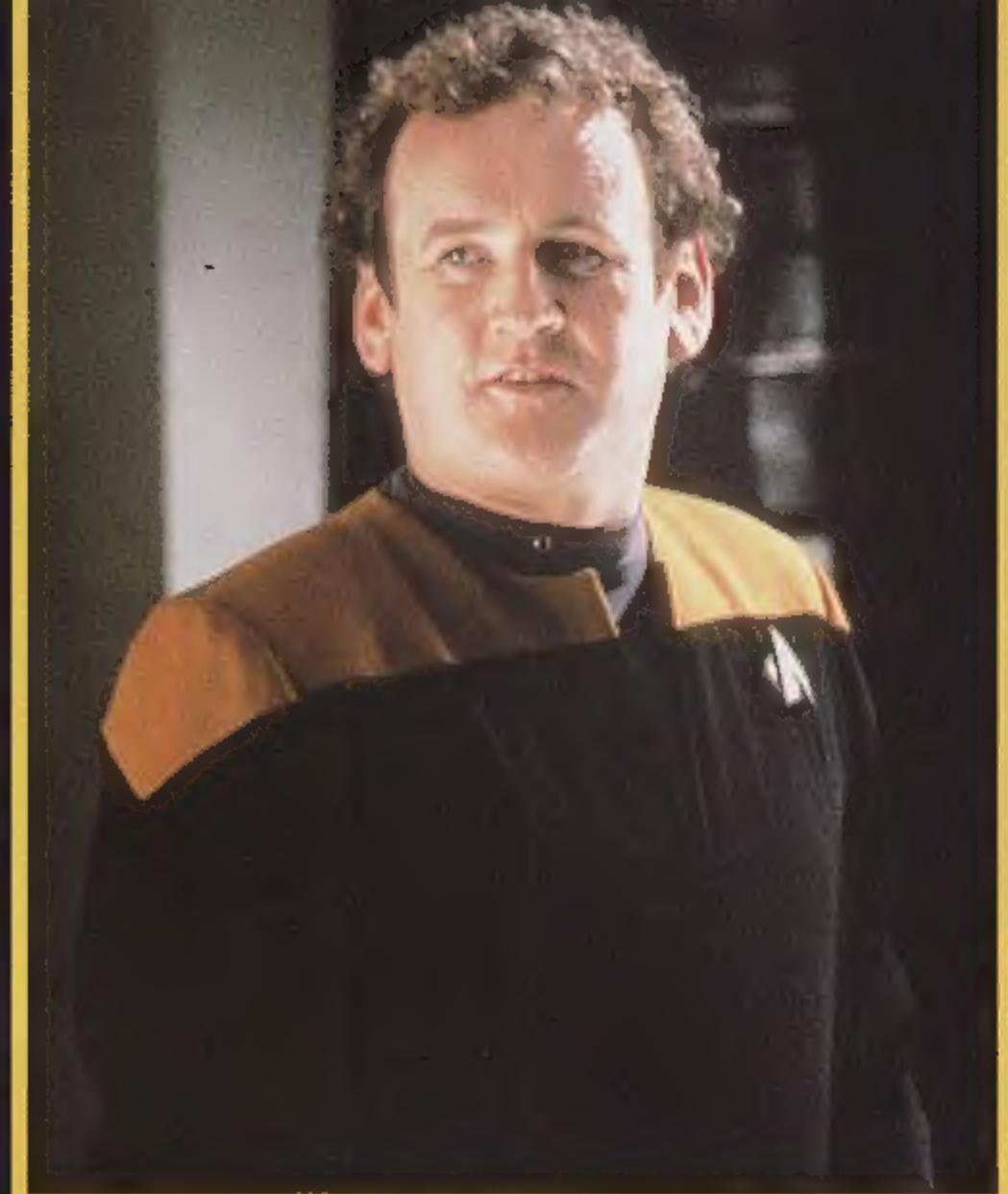


Berman promises frequent appearances by familiar *NEXT GENERATION* faces. Q (John de Lancie) shows up to test Sisko's mettle in "Q-Less."

Photo: Danny Feld

life. This enables him to get things in order and really move on, in our subsequent episodes, with his life, with his new job, with his relationships with his son, Starfleet and those aboard the space station."

Berman is currently in the midst of overseeing the sixth episode of *DEEP SPACE NINE* and the 13th sixth season *NEXT GENERATION* segment. He has escaped a darkened conference room for a brief while to talk, and he will head back into that room to review a rough cut of an upcoming *NEXT GENERATION* episode immediately after the tape recorder's off button has been activated. It's a



Keiko O'Brien (Rosalind Chao) will be a recurring character on *DEEP SPACE NINE*. Her husband, **Miles** (Colm Meaney), works there as a regular.

long, grueling day he puts in.

"Right now, I'm working 60 to 70 hours a week. I have three children," Berman says, pointing to the many pictures that adorn his desk, walls and tables. "I insist on having some time with them. As busy as I am today I have an eight o'clock dinner appointment that I plan on making. The key to doing this is taking it all very seriously and putting the same care to every specific detail, whether it be the fifth draft of a *NEXT GENERATION*

detail up on both shows now. What has made that possible is, after six years, we have a remarkable group of people, who make life very easy for me. I can't say enough about Jeri Taylor, the co-executive producer on *THE NEXT GENERATION*. We have a great writing staff. We have people who have moved up the ladder to supervisor positions. Assistants on *THE NEXT GENERATION* have capably taken over and their bosses are now on *DEEP SPACE NINE*.

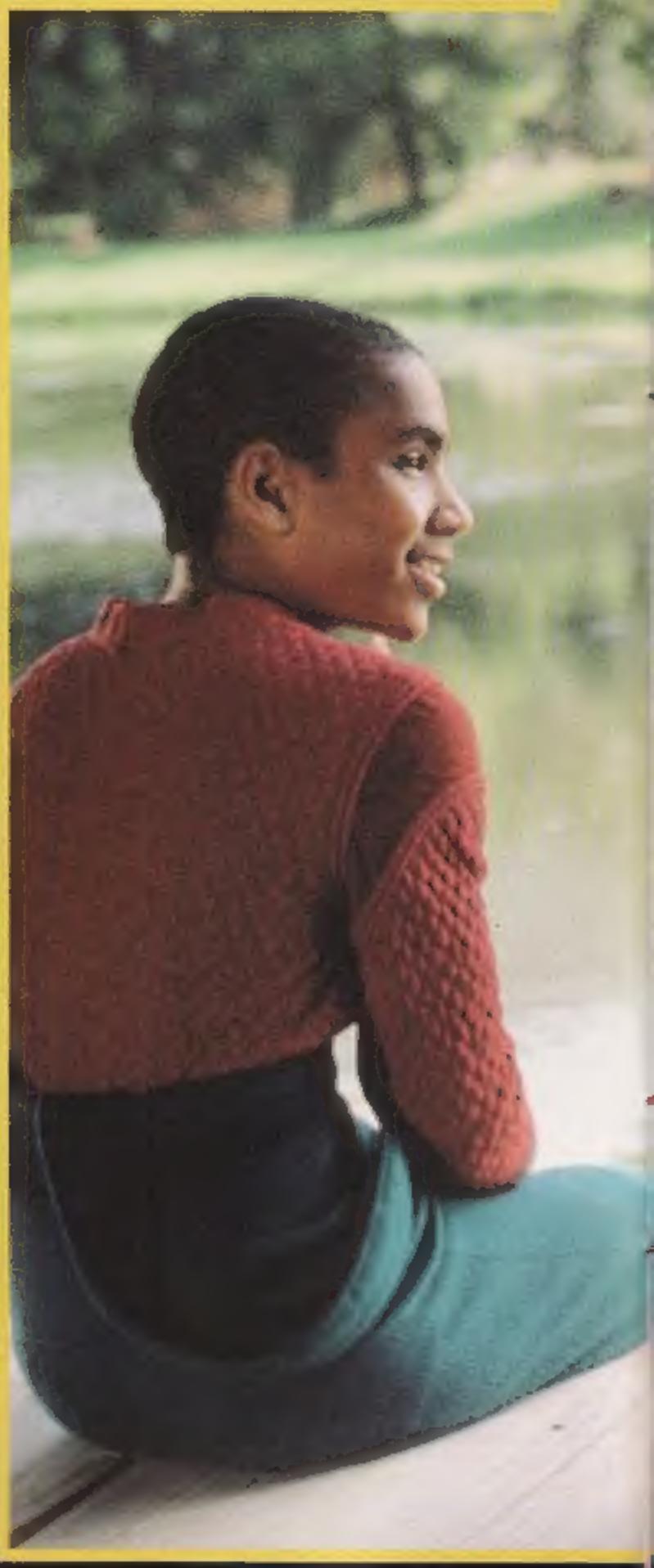
"Michael Westmore, who does our makeup and prosthetics, or Bob Blackman, who does our costuming, are doing both shows simultaneously. They're giving more responsibility to the people under them," continues the producer. "We have very little attrition. Hundreds and hundreds of people work here and many of them have been with us all six years. People who started as secretaries and production assistants have moved up to better positions. Many of these people are now bringing that experience to *DEEP SPACE NINE*. The machinery is built and it's running so smoothly that I can do two shows at once and still have something resembling a life. Besides, I keep all of these pictures of my kids around so I can remember what they look like."

"We needed to create some degree of tension, of conflict between our characters."

script or the remains of a human being who has been phased that are now smeared on the deck plate of a Cardassian vessel somewhere, or whether it's a wig, or sitting in the cutting room, or spotting the music, or the FX. Whatever it is, you have to treat it with a *tremendous* deal of care.

"The minute you get sloppy, the minute you stop caring, even about silly little details, it will unravel on you like a spool of thread. I have to keep my level of concentration, care and

One day, not too many light years down the road, Berman may be talking about his plans for a *STAR TREK* movie, one most likely to focus on the *NEXT GENERATION* crew after that series leaves the air. Now, however, it's too early to even discuss the possibility. "I'm producing



two TV shows. The ratings for *THE NEXT GENERATION* are higher than they've ever been. The show is doing remarkably well. *DEEP SPACE NINE*, I think, will be absolutely incredible. We're going to introduce some actors, who will be big stars. I'm doing plenty right now," he says, smiling that smile again. "THE NEXT GENERATION could run another two years, and God knows how long we could be doing *DEEP SPACE NINE*. My plate is completely full. I'm not thinking about feature films or any other series, for that matter."

There's a long, dramatic pause. "But give me a little while."

Just as a finger comes down on the tape recorder, Rick Berman interrupts:

"We have a remarkable cast," he says. "Avery Brooks is an incredible presence. Nana Visitor is a wonderful actress. Rene Auberjonois and Armin

Shimerman are to die for. Their characters, Odo and Quark, and the sparing they do is a relationship we tried to do on *THE NEXT GENERATION* and never succeeded in doing. We wanted something similar to the relationship between Spock and McCoy. We'll definitely succeed this time. It's wonderful. Siddig El Fadil is our young doctor and he is an extraordinary talent. Colm Meaney is the one person we brought from *THE NEXT GENERATION*. He's one of the finest actors I've ever seen. Where we have fine actors like Patrick Stewart and Brent Spiner on *THE NEXT GENERATION*, we have some remarkable actors on *DEEP SPACE NINE*.

"I'm really stoked."

"The key is taking it all very seriously and putting the same care to every specific detail."

The series will explore the complex issues facing Sisko, a man raising a son, Jake (Cirroc Kohnen), alone.

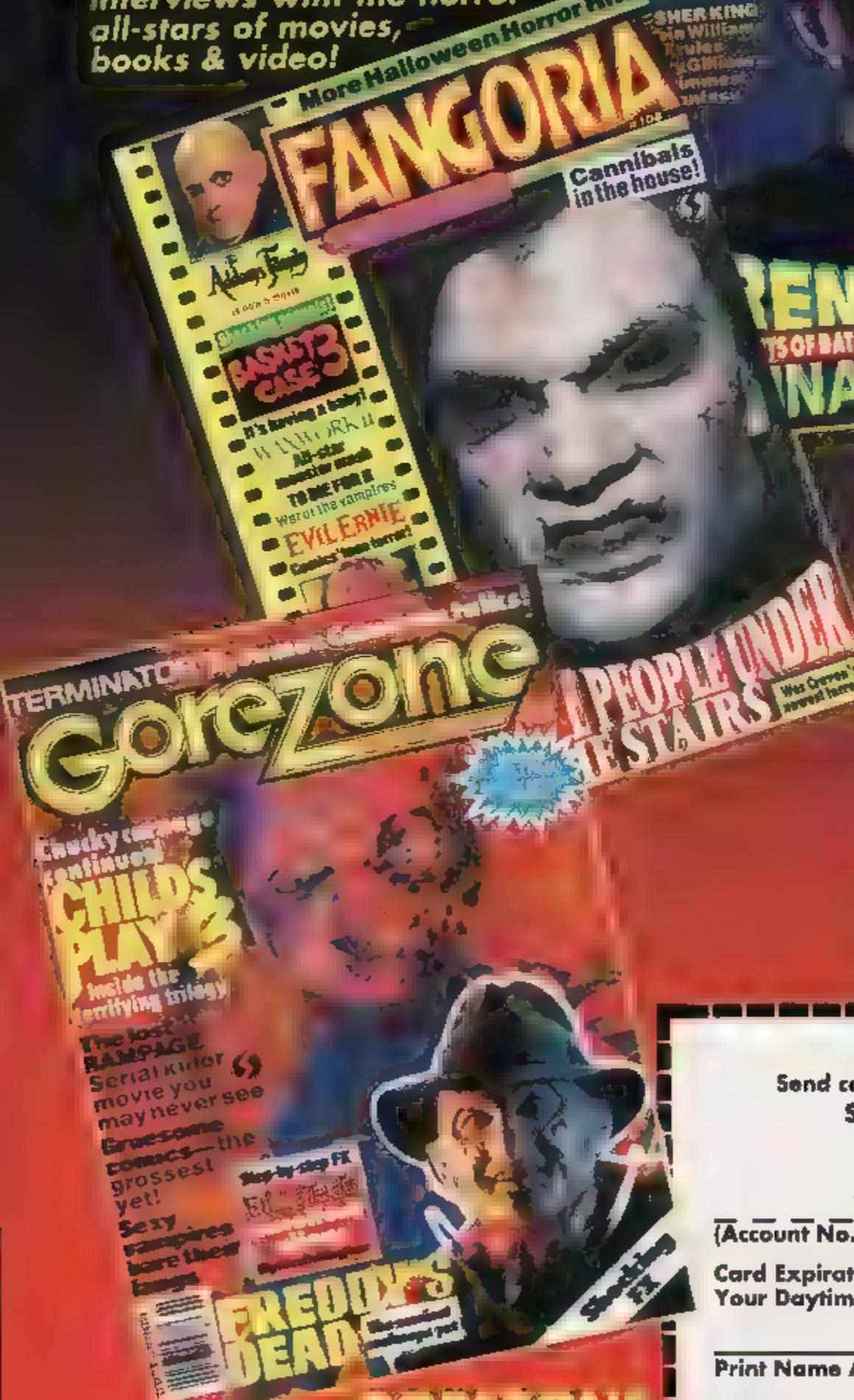


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Avery Brooks

BY JAI SPILLING

Commander

People are interested in the future, wondering what it's going to be like, wondering what our world will be like. *STAR TREK* has always presented an extraordinary view of that," says Avery Brooks, "and a positive one. As we look at our less-than-perfect world, we always wish for something better and hope that someday it gets better.

"*STAR TREK* has provided that kind of vision for millions of people over the years, while trying to satiate the curiosity about space that so many of us have. That curiosity has really been one the preoccupations of this century, wouldn't you say? *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* is different from the other [*STAR TREK*] shows, which is wonderful. We are going to have conflict all the time, and it will be great to watch."

Brooks, of course, portrays Commander Benjamin Sisko, who arrives at his post on the space station *Deep Space Nine* some time after the death of his wife due to a "Borgified" Captain Picard. Her sudden death left him a troubled, angry man, as well as a single father to the couple's teenage son, Jake (Cirroc Lofton). The two-hour *DEEP SPACE NINE* pilot, "Emissary," and the later episode, "A Man Alone," show Sisko coping with his loss and trying to move on as best he can. Helping him along are the Kai Opaka, an elderly, mystical spiritual leader and Sisko's heavy burden of day-to-day responsibility aboard the space station, which keeps him very occupied.

"The Cardassians have gutted this entire space station and, in fact decimated the planet of Bajor. They've taken away everything that functions on the space station," explains the actor, waving his hand across the massive, dark *DEEP SPACE NINE* sets on Stage 17 of the Paramount Pictures studio lot. "The provisional government has decided that Starfleet will come and try to hold it all together. And that's Sisko's job.





Sisko's most important relationship is with his son Jake (Cirroc Lofton), a boy growing up without a mother.

"It's too early to talk about the future of the show or the character. We've only done a few episodes so far. I don't really know what he'll become, but what I do know about him is he's a deep thinker. He makes decisions very quickly and believes in those decisions. He also has a great sense of humor. He wears his emotions. He loves Jake very much and is concerned about his son, about being a single parent and a good one. Jake is full of wonder. Whenever Sisko sees his son, he sees his wife. What else about him? He has a great deal of work on his hands trying to pull all of this together."

The massive effort to bring Bajor into the Federation comes rife with complications. The space station DS9 was left virtually unusable by the Cardassians, with whom the Bajorans have been warring for more than a century. In addition to the constant threat of Cardassian attack, the space station is positioned by a wormhole, an intergalactic shortcut through which species of all kinds pass, then stop over at the space station for rest, relaxation, holosex, gambling or just to cause mayhem. Moreover, should the space station ever completely lose power, it could be pulled into the wormhole and crushed to pieces.

As if that weren't enough, Sisko must keep a tight rein on his crew, several of whom aren't Starfleet officers and therefore don't follow the expected behavior and attitudes of the Federation.

"There are lots of beings who don't want to be here, Sisko included, at least in the very beginning," notes Brooks. Dr. Julian Bashir (Siddig El Fadil); Science Officer Lieutenant Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell), a joined species Trill with a 300-year-old past; Chief Operations Officer Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney), who must figure out how to make the damaged space station at least functional; and Sisko are all Starfleet. Odo (Rene Auberjonois), a resident of the space station since before the Cardassian occupation and now its Security Officer; First Officer Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor), once a Bajoran terrorist and now a reluctant participant in the Federation effort; and Quark (Armin Shimerman), a greedy Ferengi, who serves as proprietor of the space station's bustling bar and gaming room, are all non-Starfleet.

"It's a complicated set of relationships. Dax was once a mentor to Sisko and now she has a new host, so that will take Sisko and Dax some getting used to," says Brooks. "Odo, the shapeshifter, is used to being in charge of security, but he's not used to taking orders. Nor is Major Kira, for that matter, who has been fighting for Bajoran independence since she was young, but now must stand beside Sisko."

"Dr. Bashir is fresh out of medical



school and has never been in any environment like this, so the young man is very gung-ho. We have to tone him down. Sisko is so glad O'Brien's here on the space station and not the *Enterprise*. O'Brien's a calming element. Quark makes Sisko laugh, but because Ferengis are notorious, the relationship is quite interesting because Sisko always has to try to stay five steps ahead of him."

Another interesting relationship which will be developed as the series progresses is that between Sisko and the Kai Opaka, who guides the Commander along on an intensely emotional and spiritual mission with great stakes. "Ah, yes, 'The Kai.' If you think 400 years hence and then look far back at the history of African people, there has always been a connection to the divine, to the spiritual. So, this Kai Opaka, this exchange Sisko has with her, is fascinating," he says. "Sisko's spirit is not quite at peace yet, so the exchanges with her are quite extraordinary."

Avery Brooks was born and raised in Indiana. After graduating from Oberlin College, Brooks embarked on a career that would see him appearing in such stage productions as *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?*, Paul Robeson and the musical, *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. He has also per-

Opposite: Tension will occasionally flare between Starfleet's Sisko and the former Bajoran Major Kira (Nana Visitor).



Photo: Danny Feld

"Odo [Rene Auberjonois] is used to being in charge of security," Brooks says, "but he's not used to taking orders"—especially from Sisko.

formed jazz with such artists as Jon Hendricks and Henry Threadgill. His television work includes the co-starring role of Hawk opposite Robert Urich on *Spencer: For Hire*, and the lead in that show's spin-off, *A Man Called Hawk*.

"I never call myself an actor except for the fact that I have a union card. I've always thought of myself as an artist and

me. This art is a way for me to discuss the world and how I feel about it. If I were a physicist, I would still be talking about the same ideas, the same values that concern me about changing the quality of life on our planet. It's the same thing for me as an artist."

When he's not practicing his art, Brooks can often be found on a college

"Sisko's spirit is not quite at peace."

I'll always think of myself as an artist. The fact of the matter is this need to talk about the world, to be articulate about the world, to express myself, was given to me and my brother at a very early age. We were involved in music and performance, which is endemic to the African-American culture," he says. "I didn't discover it; it was already within

campus, directing or teaching at Case Western Reserve University, where he has been on the faculty for two decades and a tenured professor for 13 years. As proud as he is of his many accomplishments, none is more important than his wife and their three children, a teenage daughter and two younger sons, with whom Brooks resides





Brooks enjoys finding all of the "different textures of humanity" in Benjamin Sisko.

"They sent me the script for *DEEP SPACE NINE*," recalls Brooks, "which I found to be very compelling, so I pursued it. I had to put something on tape for them because I was actually out of the country when they first started to look for an actor to play Sisko. Then, they asked me to come out to Los Angeles for a test and I did that. Then, they asked me to do the role. Simple enough, thank God."

"I'm looking forward to doing this for as long as it lasts. You can't predict what will happen in this business, so I'm just

"I've always thought of myself as an artist."

going to take all of this one day at a time, and just one episode at a time. I will say it is wonderful to be able to play the range of Sisko's emotions, to do the whole gamut.

"When we first encounter Benjamin Sisko, you realize he is really struggling with the wars of his past, which left him a widower. The most wonderful of the challenges is to find all of these different colors in him and the different textures of humanity. So far, there have been no two days that are alike. And," says Avery Brooks, "I like that."

Photo: Julie Dennis

at their home in New Jersey. "My long-term goal is simple," he says. "I want to raise my children, love my people and, in some very small way, make the world better for succeeding generations."

In the meantime, there is *DEEP SPACE NINE* and Brooks is up for the challenge of enacting life in the 24th Century, of following in the footsteps of *TREK* classic and *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, of facing comparisons with William Shatner and Patrick Stewart, of lunch boxes, calendars and conventions, and of serving as a role model for black children, in much the same way that Nichelle Nichols did during the run of the classic *STAR TREK* series. "I grew up watching television. I don't know that anyone could not be aware of *STAR TREK*. I certainly was.



"I'm looking forward to doing this [*DEEP SPACE NINE*] for as long as it lasts," declares Brooks.

Photo: Danny Feld



STAR TREK Co-Producer/ Writer

DEEP SPACE NINE™

By BILL FLORENCE

Peter Allan Fields

The single most common complaint of writers of *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* has always been the series' lack of conflict among the regular characters. That Picard, Riker, Troi and the rest of the crew of the starship *Enterprise* rarely disagree about anything is an idealistic concept at the core of the *NEXT GENERATION* format, and the show's writers have had to create conflict using outside influences.

But *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* answers the plea for character conflict, much to the delight of TV writers and, ultimately, *STAR TREK* fans.

There's no one happier about this new *STAR TREK* series' format than Peter Allan Fields, co-producer and writer on *DEEP SPACE NINE*. "This show is actually more exciting than I thought it would be," says Fields, a veteran TV scribe,

As writer/co-producer Peter Allan Fields explains, the space station Deep Space Nine is an alien place.

who wrote three noteworthy episodes of *THE NEXT GENERATION* ("Half a Life," "Cost of Living" and "The Inner Light") before transferring over to the team charged with guiding the fledgling series. "That doesn't necessarily mean action. For me as a writer, as someone who likes character conflict, this show is very exciting.

"On *THE NEXT GENERATION*," Fields elaborates, "Gene Roddenberry made something that was too perfect. Nobody has any arguments on the *Enterprise*; all conflict comes externally. It's in its sixth year now, so obviously, there's plenty of conflict to be had there. But what we have on *DEEP SPACE NINE* is, happily, a total mess on the space station. There is much more opportunity for a writer to have conflict between the characters you see every week. You've got people who are meeting each other for the first time and don't necessarily like each other. We have some Federation and Starfleet personnel, and they're the same kind of personnel you would find on the *Enterprise*. The difference is, they're not on the *Enterprise*. They're on an alien space station, recently left to its own devices by the Cardassians. The Bajorans are just learning to enjoy and trust the Federation, and they are still leery of the Cardassians, who are roaming around out on the border. There are all manner of creatures going to and fro through the wormhole. This is not our place. And it is, therefore, a wonderful place to be."

Photo: Courtesy Peter Allan Fields



While he's enjoying the ability to exploit character conflict during *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s infancy, Fields admits the situation may change over time. "Our characters are going to get to know each other, perhaps as well as the characters on the *Enterprise*. But right now, I'm having a hell of a lot more fun. We have personalities in conflict, because Starfleet and the Federation are in bed with beings who are so different, and from that comes conflict. It's wonderful to have conflict come out of character rather than from a blast of a phaser. We're more fortunate [than *NEXT GENERATION* writers] in that we have the opportunity to have some of that conflict on board the station, rather than having it come to us externally."

Fields candidly admits that as a member of *THE NEXT GENERATION*'s fifth season staff, he felt he could never contribute to the series on a par with fellow staffers Ronald D. Moore, Jeri Taylor, Brannon Braga and others. "I was working on *THE NEXT GENERATION* and learning it, but there was no way I was going to learn that show the way they had," he says. "Ron,

Jeri and Brannon have been on the show a long time, and they know it forward and backward. Michael Piller recognized, as did Rick Berman, that I might adapt more easily to a brand new show, where I wouldn't be intruding, in a way. *THE NEXT GENERATION* was somebody else's gig, and I was trying to latch onto something I didn't know very much about. Coming in so early on *DEEP SPACE NINE* has allowed me to contribute to some of the little things that Mike and Rick didn't think of initially with the broad strokes. New ideas and new questions always come up with a new series, most of which are difficult to answer."

When it comes to isolating his contributions, however, Fields finds the lines between himself, Michael Piller and Ira Steven Behr (also formerly a *NEXT GENERATION* writer) are too blurred to be specific. "Michael, Ira and I have sat together so many times, giving and taking," Fields notes. "Usually on a series, word comes down from on high, but Mike hasn't done that with us. Instead, the three of us have banged around the questions of the series. One can't know in advance all the questions that are

going to come up. For instance, what direction should the relationship between Odo and Quark take? I'm working now on a script about Dax, the Trill. She's a very complex being. It's not quite the same kind of Trill as seen in 'The Host' on *THE NEXT GENERATION*. This is a rather different creature in the body of a lovely 28-year-old woman."



If the *DEEP SPACE NINE* characters are able to reflect the outstanding chemistry, which exists among the series' producers, viewers may discover some amazing adventures. "The give and take has been wonderful," claims Fields. "Mike, Ira and I get along very well. When you're doing a show, any show, you all work toward a common goal and

you manage to get along, to do this and that together. That's acceptable. But on *DEEP SPACE NINE*—and I've never verbalized this before—the chemistry between the three of us has been pure joy.

"When we break stories down into their detailed parts, it's a very difficult thing to do, and if you do that with someone, whom you're just there to work with, yes, you get it done. But Ira and I will sit there very often alone, or with another writer, and the process goes twice as quickly. The creation of *DEEP SPACE NINE*, after the basic outline, has been more or less a melting pot, and that's a wonderful way to work. It seldom happens, and I'm having a great time. It's fun to go to work, and not a little bit of that is because of the people with whom I'm working."

More than anything else, Fields' job as co-producer of *DEEP SPACE NINE* is to write. He's involved with his own original story premises as well as rewrites of freelancers' scripts. "It's important to find and help freelance writers grasp the

This series allows Starfleet personnel, like Sisko (Avery Brooks), to confront new values in an alien environment.

show. When a writer comes in with a story that works, we have him shorten the sleeve and pick up the inseam, if you will, and tailor the story to what it should be. Then, we sit down and break it into scenes, during which we all have ideas to contribute."

"This is alien technology, not Federation technology."

According to Fields, Berman and Piller have "a wonderful idea of what they would like this show to be, and it is based, of course, on Gene Roddenberry's vision. It's our honest hope for our own future. They have a great idea of what they want, and it sifts down. They tell me what kind of flavor and feeling they want in the episodes, and I try to get that from writers, along with Michael and Rick."



Dax (Terry Farrell) isn't the same kind of thrill from "The Host," says Fields. "She's a very complex being."



Much has been said of DEEP SPACE NINE's apparent move away from THE NEXT GENERATION and toward classic STAR TREK in terms of the new series' look and feel, but Fields prefers to discuss differences between the 1960s incarnation and the 1993 spin-off. "I don't know as much about the original STAR TREK as people who have followed it from birth," he states, "but I know [on DEEP SPACE NINE] our characters are not out to save the universe. They're explorers, and even though they're on a stationary outpost and not 'going where no one has gone before,' they are *sitting* where no one has been before."

"Beyond the wormhole is the incredibly vast Gamma quadrant; we've gone through the wormhole in a couple of episodes and a couple things have come through the wormhole from the other side. These things are crafted very carefully. We're conscious of being *out there*. The Starfleet people are on the station to help the Bajorans bring peace and, hopefully, tranquility, to their world, but on their terms. Our values are not necessarily Bajoran values, and we are on *their* turf. The DS9 people are there to do the best they can in an alien environment."

Similarly, DEEP SPACE NINE parts with THE NEXT GENERATION in terms of mobility and environment, while remaining true to the established philosophies upheld by the Federation and Starfleet that fans have come to know.



"On this station," says Fields, "half the things don't work." It's Miles O'Brien's (Colm Meaney) job to fix them.

"In DEEP SPACE NINE, we have the same Starfleet as seen in THE NEXT GENERATION, and the same values in Starfleet officers," Fields comments. "But they aren't on a Starfleet vessel. They're on a station in an alien environment, and they have to respect the wants and needs of the Bajorans. They learn from each other."

"I'm having a great time. It's fun to go to work."



With the series on its "shakedown cruise," freelance scripts are being extensively revised. Writers, after all, are still getting to know these characters.

"Also, the space station environment is not as structured as the *Enterprise*, a Starfleet vessel run with perfection and grace. On this station, half the things don't work, and for those things that do work, our characters can't read the instructions. Most of the principal characters don't want to be there. The Bajoran first officer, Major Kira Nerys, tolerates Starfleet on the station because it's the best bet for her planet's ultimate independence. Odo, the shape-shifting se-



Piller are both adamant about not betraying any of the values that have been built up in *THE NEXT GENERATION*. And nobody's going to play fast and loose with the technology that we've established as viable in the 24th Century."

"We strive to make *DEEP SPACE NINE* unique."

Fields feels strongly that he and his fellow producers have successfully made *DEEP SPACE NINE* self-reliant and that its eventual success—or failure—will be achieved independently of either of the previous two *STAR TREK* series. "I don't think there's much reliance at all. We strive to make *DEEP SPACE NINE* unique, without violating any of that which has gone before. It is difficult, but we're doing it. Frankly, I was quite surprised at

the care that went into the birth of this new baby. Those who are fans, and more than fans, those people who know *STAR TREK* far better than I ever could, will be very pleasantly surprised with *DEEP SPACE NINE*. This is *their* show. We do the best work we can, and get the best people around us to give their best. Certainly the viewers are critical; they've earned the right to be critical, and we work for them. I come in as an outsider, and there is a *STAR TREK* context into which I fit, or I'm out. The audience expects what they have come to enjoy in *STAR TREK*. If I can't contribute to that, then I belong in another place."

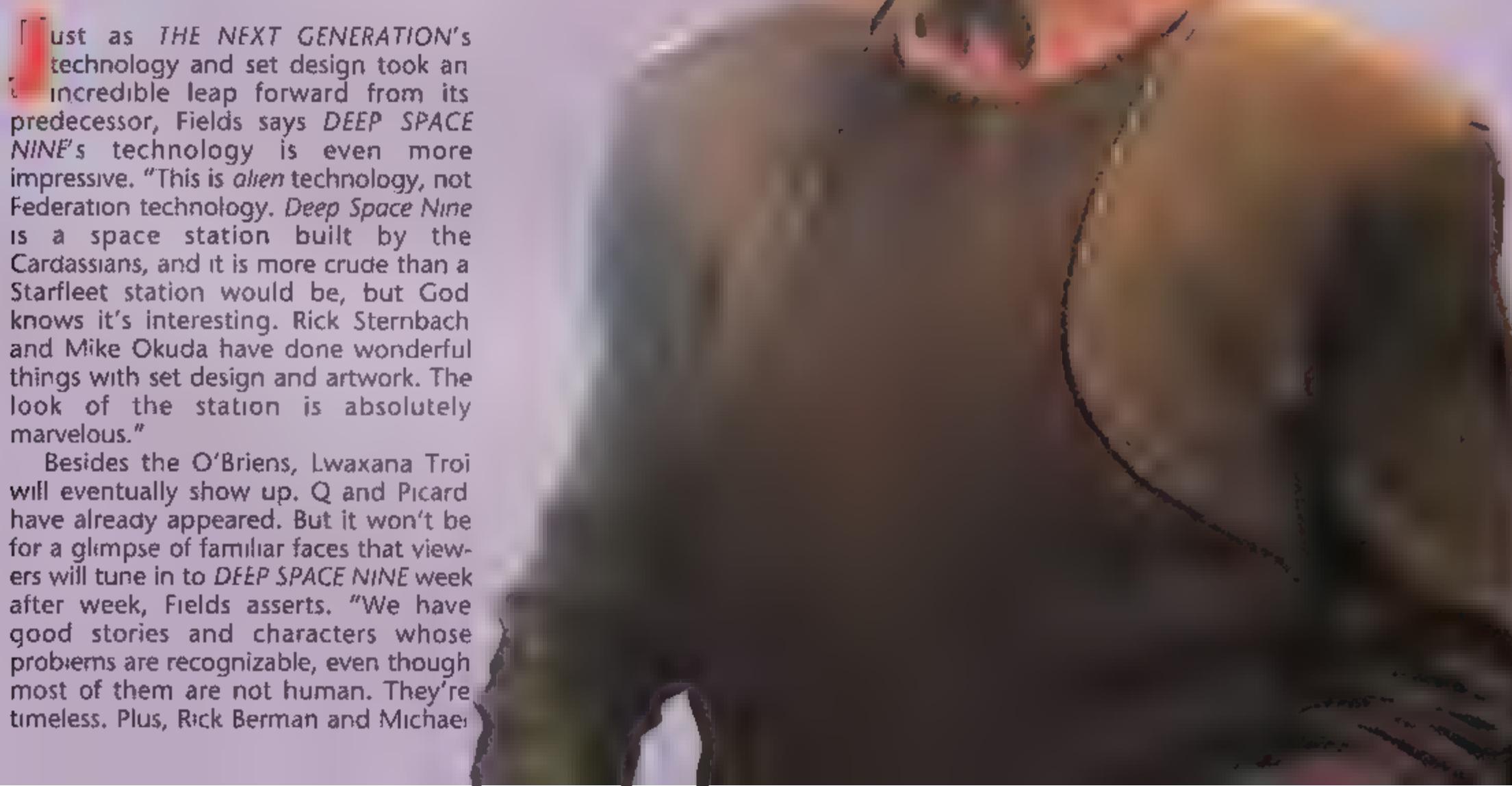
The normally mild-mannered Fields becomes agitated at the mention of the inevitable reluctance to embrace the new series that some fans may feel, just as many fans hesitated to accept *THE NEXT GENERATION* when it debuted in 1987. "There are people out there who will smartly sit back and do what they did with the first year of *THE NEXT GENERATION*," he says. "They fold their arms and say, 'All right, show me.'

Photo: Kim Gottlieb Walker

curity officer, believes totally in justice and thinks it was easier when the Cardassians ruled the station, because then, if they didn't like somebody, they threw him in jail. In Starfleet, there has to be a trial and a person must be guilty of a crime before we throw him in jail. That's frustrating when your concern isn't so much the law as it is justice."

Just as *THE NEXT GENERATION*'s technology and set design took an incredible leap forward from its predecessor, Fields says *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s technology is even more impressive. "This is *alien* technology, not Federation technology. *Deep Space Nine* is a space station built by the Cardassians, and it is more crude than a Starfleet station would be, but God knows it's interesting. Rick Sternbach and Mike Okuda have done wonderful things with set design and artwork. The look of the station is absolutely marvelous."

Besides the O'Briens, Lwaxana Troi will eventually show up. Q and Picard have already appeared. But it won't be for a glimpse of familiar faces that viewers will tune in to *DEEP SPACE NINE* week after week, Fields asserts. "We have good stories and characters whose problems are recognizable, even though most of them are not human. They're timeless. Plus, Rick Berman and Michael



Believing in Justice, Odo (René Auberjonois) thinks life was easier when the Cardassians ruled DS9.

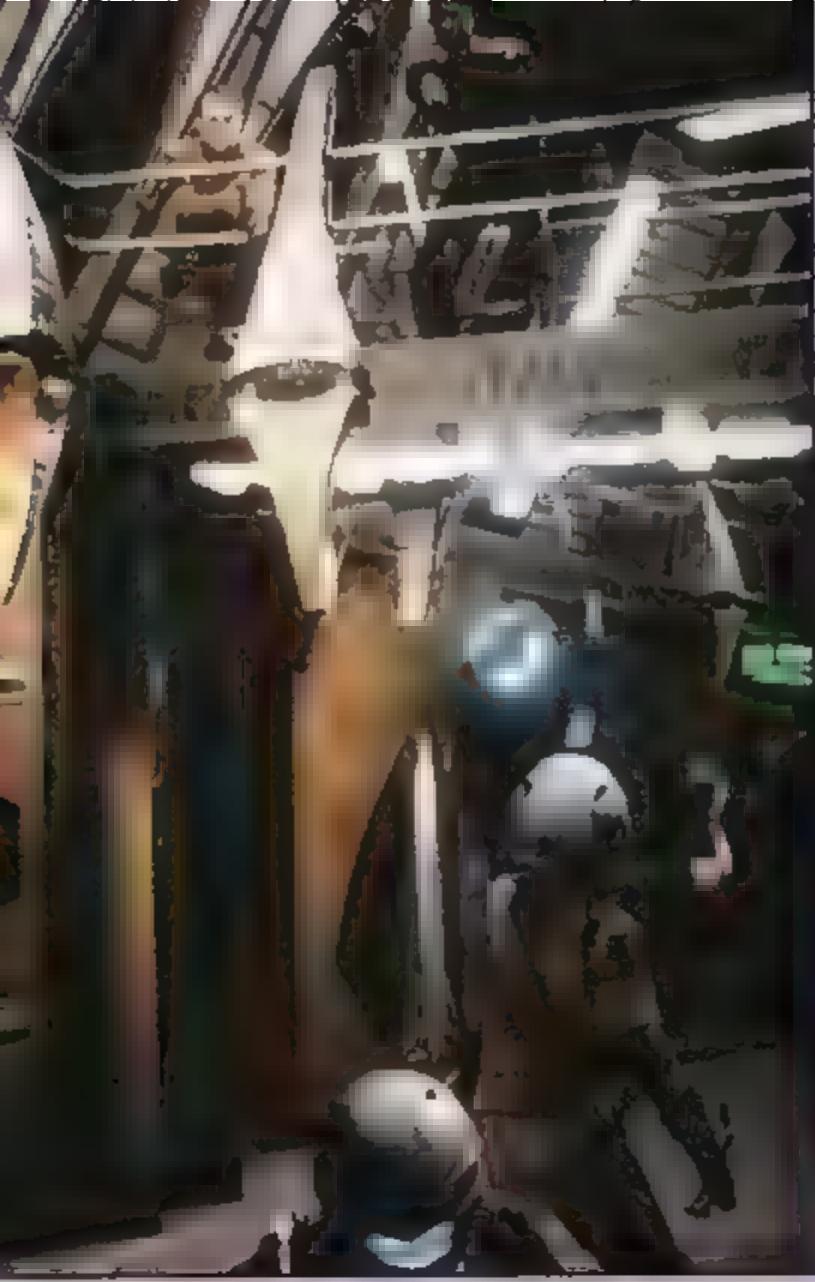


Photo: Julie Dennis

"*DEEP SPACE NINE* episodes are easier to write," says Fields. "There's more built-in conflict." Not to mention explosive action.

Or they turn up their noses at the new show. If they do that, they're going to be missing a lot of adventure, fun, excitement, beauty and new ideas. And shame on them! If that's their attitude, then they aren't as open as the idea of the very show they're fans of. The most important thing is that they open their minds to the choice. If they watch *DEEP SPACE NINE* for a while and after a few episodes decide there's something about it that's uninteresting to them, that's their prerogative. But to be closed-minded as you turn on your TV set for the first time, is, frankly, to turn

your back on everything that Gene Roddenberry would have liked an audience to get from a show, and that's freedom, thinking for yourself and being open to that which is new."

DEEP SPACE NINE carries on the *NEXT GENERATION* tradition of accepting a high proportion of freelance scripts. A fresh perspective from the outside is crucial to this series' success, Fields says. "Our shows are coming equally from in-house and freelance writers. It's just too difficult for two or three people to come up with some of the marvelous things

"*DEEP SPACE NINE* is more to them than just a business, I promise you that."

that have been presented to us. We would be lost without freelance help and the imagination that comes from outside our walls."

The extensive amount of rewriting that has been done and will continue throughout the formative period of *DEEP SPACE NINE* doesn't reflect poorly on the freelance submissions, he points out. "Much of the rewriting isn't because the scripts didn't come in well written, but because the shadings of our concepts, ideas and dialogue change to such an extent. Like every new show, we're on a shakedown cruise here. The best scripts sometimes have production problems, or sometimes we realize a character wouldn't talk this way or do that kind of thing. We have to consider character

development. If something happens to a character, what will happen thereafter with that character? We might ruin something. So, we're extremely careful."

Reflecting on his three *NEXT GENERATION* episodes, Fields explains that they were both easier and harder to write than his *DEEP SPACE NINE* shows. "These are harder in that the characters are so new, and with each script you write, indeed with each scene you write, you may be putting something in a character's background or personality that wasn't there before. You add to that character."

"But on the other hand, the *DEEP SPACE NINE* episodes are easier to write in that there is more built-in conflict. The opportunity exists for more internally generated drama. Everybody doesn't get up in the morning, kiss each other on the cheek and go to work until something bad happens. These characters get up in the morning and we have conflict wherever they look. And we do not have melodrama; we don't cheapen the series that way."

Fields offers a few final thoughts on the newest incarnation of Gene Roddenberry's dream. "This show has the potential, without being in any way parasitic, to be a wonderful multi-thespian adventure for viewers. That's the end toward which we're all working. We want to be true to what this thing was when it was conceived, and not to dilute it in any way. I come to this belatedly, and I'm very impressed with the integrity of Michael Piller and Rick Berman. Their concern for the audience is very warming. *DEEP SPACE NINE* is more to them than just a business, I promise you that."

"I see the dailies every day, and I get a kick out of what we're doing!" Peter Allan Fields laughs. "I'm this tired, jaded old guy who's not supposed to be here, but boy, am I excited about this stuff!"

Photo: Danny Feld



"Most of the principal characters don't want to be there," Fields reveals. "That's especially true of Kelko O'Brien (Rosalind Chao) who transferred to DS9 with her husband."

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Nana Visitor

First Officer

I expected we would have to work long hours when I accepted the role, and we've had very long days. I was really excited to be working with the actors I was working with. I know their reputations well—they've all been wonderful.

Thus Nana Visitor of her

months as Major Kira Nerys in

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE.

really having

the kind of the best

experiences ever had.

As Kira Visitor in the new *Star Trek* feature *First Officer*, she plays Commander Benjamin Sisko's First Officer aboard the space station Deep Space Nine. When Kira is not involved in her day-to-day duties, including resting in her quarters, the Major will most often be found manning her post at the Operations Table, which is positioned beneath a large viewing screen, in the center of the Operations Control Center, referred to by DS9's crew as Ops. Lieutenant Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell) and Chief Operations Officer Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney) will be just off to either side, manning their respective science and engineering consoles. Behind them, in an office separated by heavy, ominous double doors, Sisko

Kira is aggressive and has a very deep spirituality. I think all the Bajorans do that just the women. Kira herself is very committed to the cause of Bajor and Bajoran independence. Part of her evolution as a character on the show will be her gaining confidence that the Federation's involvement is the way to go for the good of the planet and its people," notes the actress, who undergoes two hours of makeup daily to apply the ridged nose that marks her as a Bajoran. "She doesn't really like the Federation being on the space station at all, but she sees the use





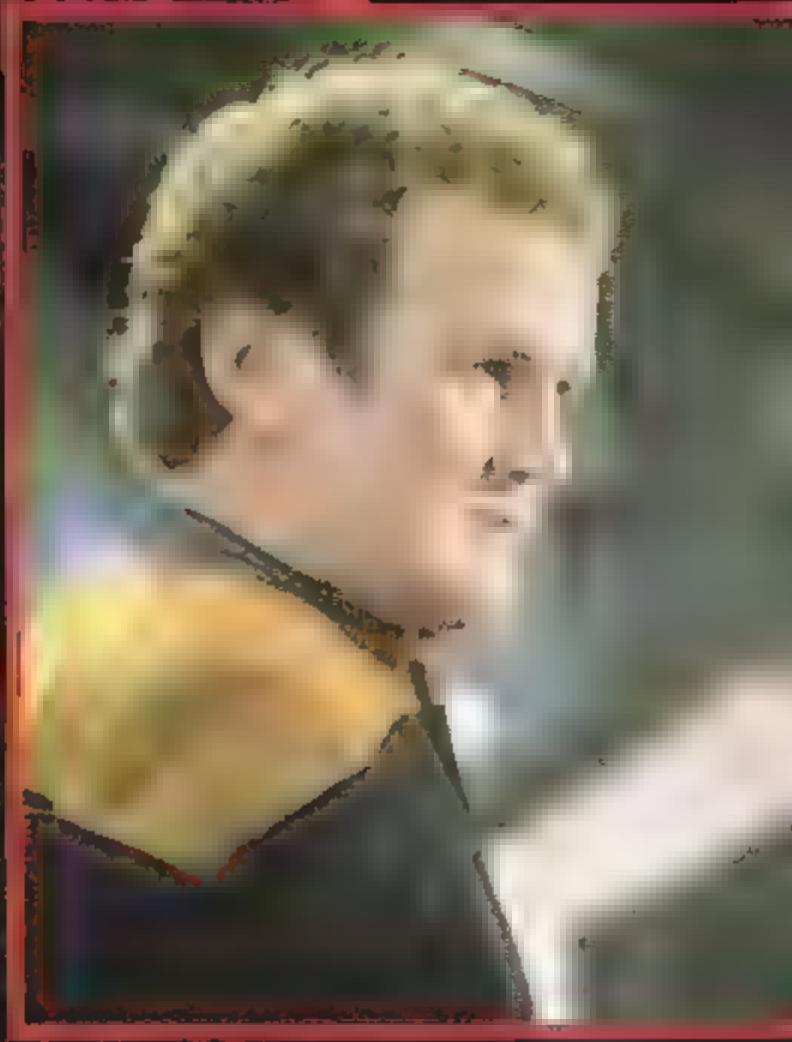
Together, Odo (Rene Auberjonois) and Major Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor) face another menace to the space station *Deep Space Nine*.

of it right now, the necessity of it, actually, because if they weren't there on the space station and protecting the planet, the Cardassians would be back in a minute to try to take control of the wormhole."

Though Major Kira will soon develop relationships with all of the regulars aboard DS9, her interaction with the other characters at this point in the series is mostly with Commander Sisko (Avery Brooks), shape-shifting Security Chief Odo (Rene Auberjonois), and the young, occasionally irresponsible Dr. Julian Bashir (Siddig El Fadil). "She respects Commander Sisko, but it's never going to be an easy relationship. There's a defi-

nite friction there, because her first priority is absolutely anything that has to do with Bajor and its people," says Visitor. "Anything else, any other personal relationship comes after that, so that will cause problems between the other characters and her."

"Kira and Odo do have something of an understanding. However, she's very impatient with Bashir, the doctor. She's smart, and very tough, in the sense that she's not afraid to fight if she has to, but she has absolutely no patience for certain people, and one of them is Bashir. Kira does have a sense of humor. I would say she has a wry sense of humor. Maybe she's even a little cynical."





There's definitely friction between Kira and her superior, Starfleet Commander Benjamin Sisko (Avery Brooks).

Marina Sirtis, during her six years as Deanna Troi on *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, has expressed disappointment with the show's inability to create strong women characters and to write appropriate dialogue for them. Visitor says she's quite pleased thus far into playing Major Kira and thinks Sirtis may have played a key role in the development of *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s stronger, more fully realized fe-

male characterizations. "It's very possible that Marina's lobbying and outspokenness about it has benefited the women in *DEEP SPACE NINE*," she explains. "I was attracted to the script right away by the strength of my character. Actually, both Kira and Dax are powerful women. To play a strong woman on television, or in any medium, really, is unusual, very rare, and it's a huge joy for me."

"We all have these archetypes in us and Kira is one archetype I have in me. It's like flexing one muscle in my body more than another. She is definitely within me, but it's only a small part of me. It's important to me that Kira have female power, that she be powerful in a woman's way, and not in the way a woman might ape a man's power. I don't want her to go off in that direction too much. However, there's that little stickler. Kira is a Bajoran female. I'm not playing a human. I'm playing a humanoid, and Bajoran women are inherently aggressive, so I can't ignore that."

"I hope I can grow her as a person. I would love to see the maternal archetype explored a little bit at some point. It doesn't have to be her own child. In fact," continues the actress, as she awaits her next scene on the Quark's

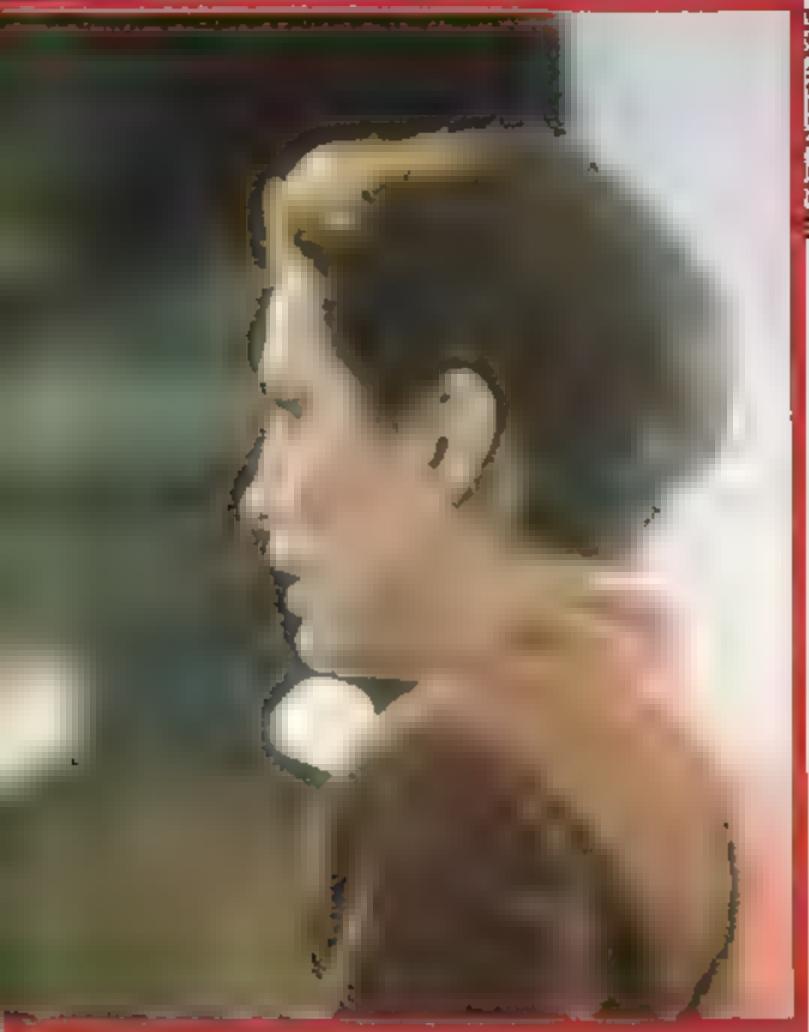
Visitor believes the *STAR TREK* saga's success lies in relationships between beings—like the Bajoran and Starfleet's Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney).

Bar set of *DEEP SPACE NINE*, "it doesn't even have to be a child. Just exploring Kira being involved in another relationship would be interesting. It would also be interesting to explore her spirituality. She's a very spiritual woman."

"*STAR TREK* is already a huge part of my life and it always will be."

Nana Visitor was born and grew up in New York City. Her father was a Broadway choreographer, while her mother taught ballet and ran a dance studio, so artistic endeavors seemed almost preordained. Not long after finishing high school, Visitor found herself on stage, appearing in such musicals as *Gypsy*, *42nd Street* and *My One and Only*. Roles as a regular on the long-running soap operas *Ryan's Hope* and *One Life to Live* soon followed, as did the film *The Sentinel*, with Ava Gardner.

"My real love was always acting, but I would dance for money between acting jobs," Visitor recalls. "I danced instead of waiting tables, but I felt my real power was in acting."





According to Visitor, Kira has "something of an understanding" with the shape-shifter Odo.

Moving to Los Angeles in 1985 provided the actress with the opportunity to find guest-starring work in such series as *Murder, She Wrote*, *Baby Talk*, *Jake and the Fatman*, *thirtysomething* and *L.A. Law*. Most recently, Visitor co-starred as Brynn Newhouse in *Working Girl*, a well-received, but short-lived TV version of the hit Melanie Griffith film. Then came her big break, *DEEP SPACE NINE*.

"This is not just an acting job for me. I have a wonderful character to play and I'll be able to play Kira for a long while. I'm not worried about a long run, to tell you the truth. It's a really tough time out there," says Visitor, "especially in our business. To be working is great,

STAR TREK. I have this image of myself as this struggling actress in this awful brownstone walk-up in New York City, fixing dinner for myself and having reruns of *STAR TREK* playing on the TV. They were on at 6 p.m., Channel 11. I watched them every day."

Like everyone who has been associated with the *TREK* legend in any way, Visitor has an opinion to offer about the reason for the saga's enduring popularity. "Relationships," she says. "Yes, we have all the gadgets and FX, and we have all of the interesting stories on *DEEP SPACE NINE*, but what it comes down to is the relationships between the beings. We're going to face many of the same problems and some of the same joys in the 24th Century that we do in the 20th and that we have faced throughout time. That timelessness is also very important, but I would have to say it really does come down to the relationships between the characters."

Looking not quite so far into the future, Nana Visitor would be thrilled if she were still talking about *DEEP SPACE NINE* decades from now, after years of conventions, a long run on television and perhaps even several film adventures for the *DS9* crew. "Wouldn't that be something!" she says with genuine excitement. "Wouldn't that be something? *STAR TREK* is already a huge part of my life and it always will be. It has already made a big impact on me, personally. Every role changes you. It brings out something different in you. You realize, 'Oh, my God, I can be a little more assertive than I thought I could be,' or 'I can use this strength, this sense of humor.' Every role I've ever done, there has always been a little ghost of it that stayed with me, and I know Kira will, too. I like Kira." - 



"Kira is a *Bajoran* female. I'm not playing a human."

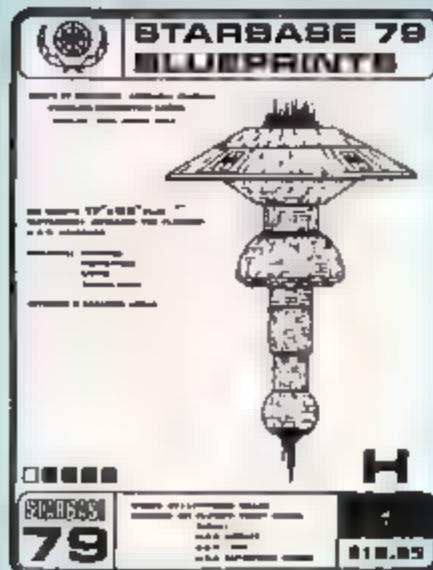
period. There are so many actresses my age who aren't working. They're really talented, really beautiful. I'm just thrilled and grateful to be working, and to be working on *STAR TREK*.

"We're part of the futurists' thoughts and ideas. Many people are putting a lot of creativity, effort, care and love into this show every day, so I'm really looking forward to the experience that's ahead of all of us. I've always been a big fan of the style and quality of *THE NEXT GENERATION*. I thought, 'That's a nicely done show.' I grew up on the original

The actress hopes to explore her character's philosophy. "Kira's a very spiritual woman," Visitor says.



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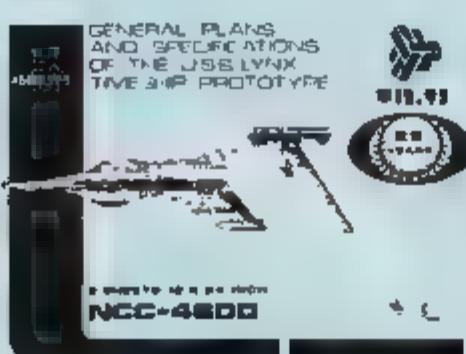
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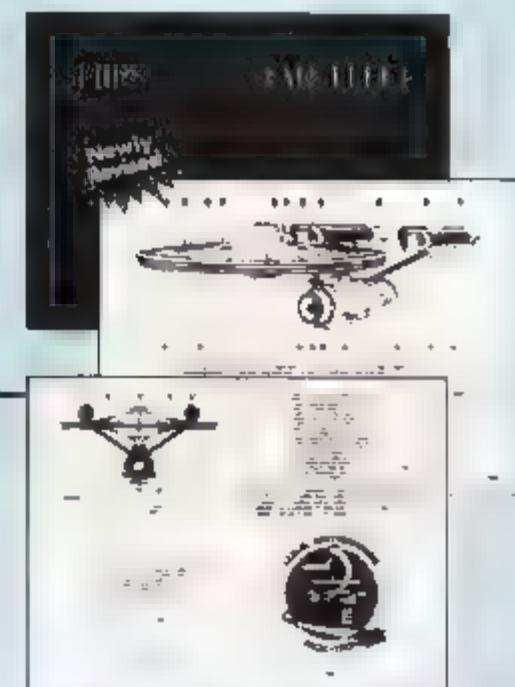
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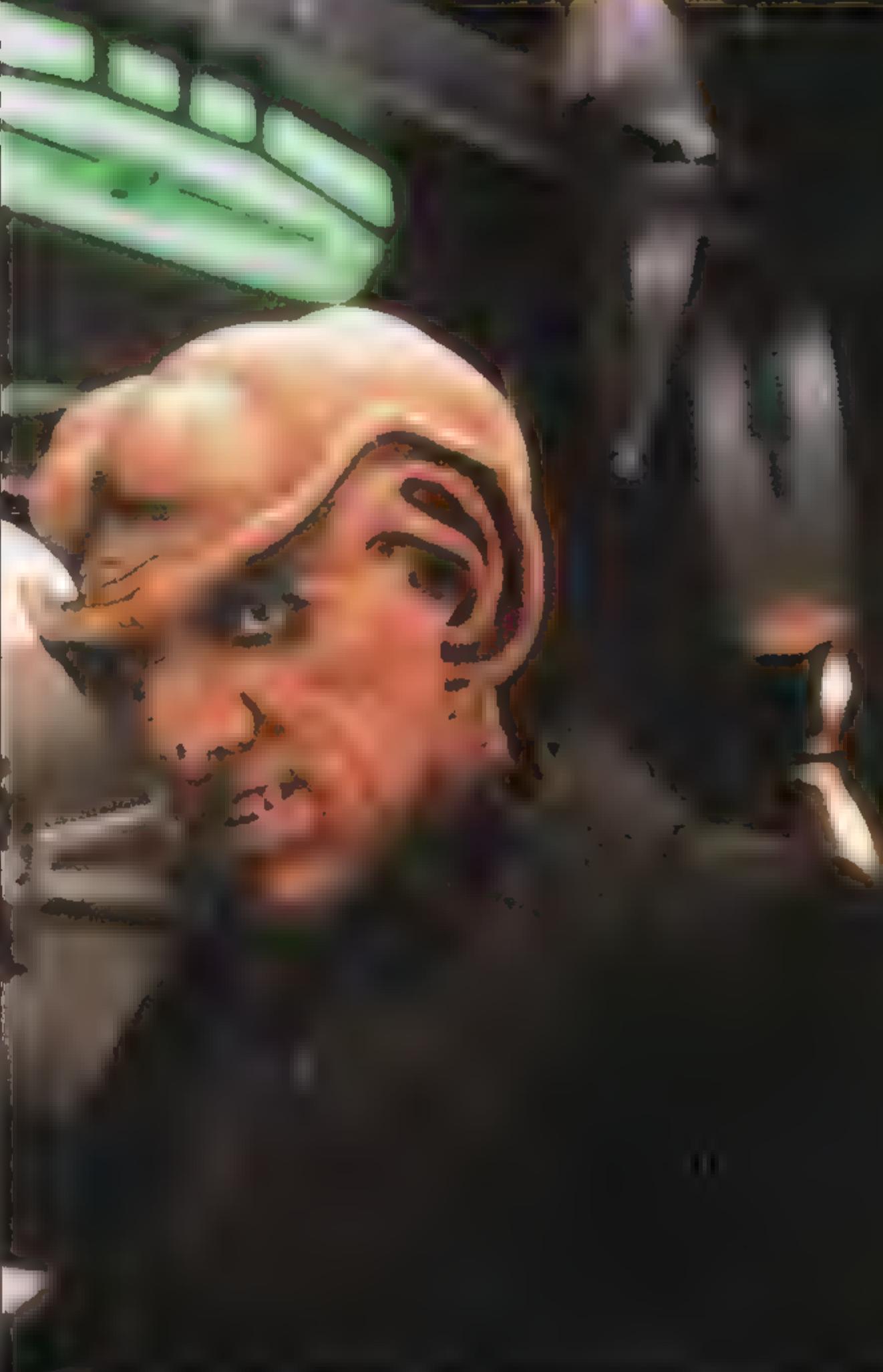
Bartender

The crews of the original *STAR TREK* and *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* were comprised of Kirk and McCoy, Uhura and Sulu, Picard and Worf, Troi and Crusher, people and beings who genuinely liked each other, respected each other and wanted to spend time with one another. That certainly isn't the case on *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*, where the inhabitants of the space station DS9 each has his, her or its own agenda, and that agenda doesn't necessarily work well with anyone else's.

No character has more of his own agenda than Quark, the Ferengi bartender with the big head, literally and figuratively. He is *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s professional capitalist, who, in addition to running the space station's bar, casino, restaurant and holographic brothel, buys, sells and makes a profit on everything and anything that comes his way. All of this, of course, tests the patience of DS9's Commander Sisko (Avery Brooks), Security Chief Odo (Rene Auberjonois) and Starfleet in general.

"He's fun and a conniver and mischievous," says his human alter ego, actor Armin Shimerman. "He has an agreement of sorts with Commander Sisko and the Federation. As long as he doesn't go too far, they won't get too involved in his affairs, so he can continue to be a community leader of sorts on the Promenade. Early on, Quark will be the show's comic relief, which is wonderful, but I hope, in time, we'll go a little deeper and show some of his true menace. But the comic relief is important now, and I understand that. There wasn't much comic relief on the original series or on *THE NEXT GENERATION*. Hopefully, that will be one of the things that will make *DEEP SPACE NINE* different from our predecessors."

Though Quark may run the bar named after himself, it'll be a cold day in Holodeck hell before he and any of the space station regulars sit down together for friendly conversation over drinks. "I wouldn't count on that," laughs



Once again a Ferengi, Armin Shimerman, a veteran of *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION* alien work, presides over Quark's Bar as (who else?) Quark.

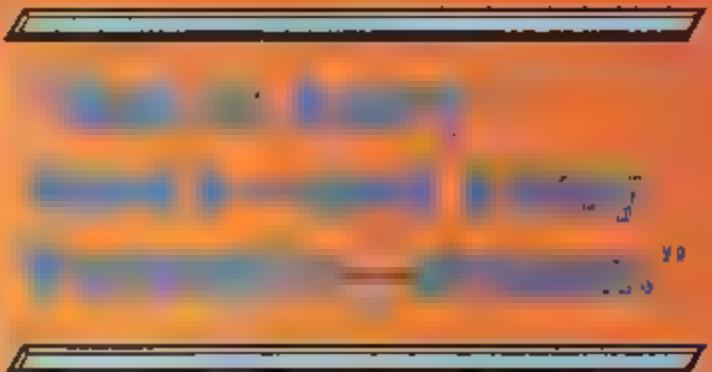


Ferengis like close encounters with females of any kind.

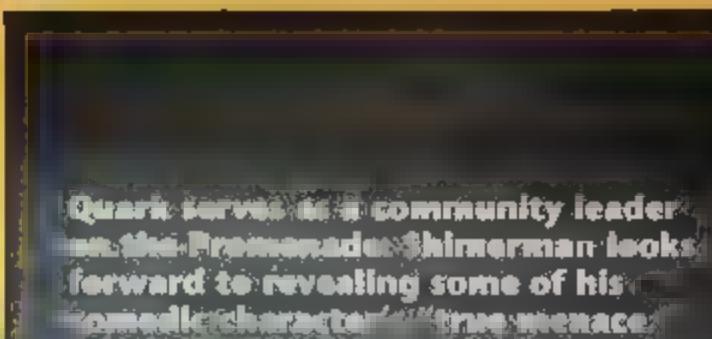
Shimerman "As characters, we wouldn't go out for drinks. Quark, as a result, has very different relationships with different people aboard the space station. We deal with each other because we need each other in some way. Right now, the most colorful relationship that the writers and producers have created for Quark is the one with Odo.

"Odo, like Quark, is the only other occupant of *DS9* who was here before the Federation came in to intervene. Odo and I have a history. He is the law and I am the lawbreaker. That sets up an inherent conflict that has blossomed in the episodes we've shot so far. I would call it a...truce. That's a good word. Truce. Odo and Quark respect each other. We don't trust each other at all, but, as long as we keep a certain norm, this truce will be maintained. We have a fencing relationship, and we're always feeling each other out, testing each other, seeing how far we can go and backing off when we need to. That has proven to be both fascinating and comical. As an actor, that has been my favorite relationship to play so far."

Commander Sisko and Quark enjoy a far less playful relationship. Each is a real threat, an unknown entity, to the other. Sisko is a representative of the Federation. Where Odo may bend a bit in his dealings with Quark, the Federation is a more imposing, less flexible opponent.



"Quark has to cooperate with the Commander because Sisko has the power to shut me down if he wants. So, I can't afford to mess with that power too much," explains Shimerman as he heads into a breakdown of how Quark interacts with *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s other characters. "I have a very licentious relationship with Dax [Terry Farrell]. She is every man's—and every Ferengi's—dream. She's even more intriguing to a Ferengi. Not only is she gorgeous, but as a Trill, she has an inner quality that's fascinating to my species. Kira [Nana Visitor] is also a female and, therefore,



Quark serves as a community leader on the Promenade. Shimerman looks forward to revealing some of his comedic characters' true menace.



very attractive to Quark. But her strength, her almost-masculine femininity, confuses Quark. He doesn't know how to deal with that quite yet.

"Dr. Bashir [Siddig El Fadil] and I, at this point, haven't really come into contact that much, nor have Quark and Sisko's son, Jake [Cirroc Lofton]. Jake and my nephew, Nog, have a relationship. Maybe a relationship between Jake and me will develop as a result. That could be a very interesting relationship. I don't think Commander Sisko would be too happy about it."

Peaking between takes on the *DEEP SPACE NINE* Promenade set, Shimerman is in full makeup, right down to Quark's sparse and crooked teeth, which he pulls out of his mouth only for effect. As everyone knows by now, Quark's creased, bald head looks something like a baby's oversized tush, while the tops of his giant ears serve double duty as overhanging eyebrows. Smack dab in the middle of Quark's face is his memorable nose; imagine a baked potato attacked by Freddy Krueger.

"Ah, the makeup," sighs the actor behind the mask. "It's a very long three hours. It's a painstaking process. The moment I sit down in the chair, what I call the helmet is put on my ears, fore-



The makeup takes more than three hours to apply, as well as an hour to take off at day's end. "It's a painstaking process," the actor laments.

head and neck. I immediately lose half of my hearing because I've got so much rubber in between my ears and the outside world. It's not just the initial three hours that are tough. There is constant touching up so I'm camera-ready. That makes me a high-maintenance character. When we're done shooting, there's an hour taking it off. My average day so far has been 16 hours. So, I'm usually one of the first ones here in the morning and one of the last ones out at the day's end. Hopefully, in time, we'll be able to shorten the time I'm in makeup."

Shimerman's association with *TREK* began when he appeared uncredited as a Wedding Box in the first season Lwaxana Troi episode, "Haven." The actor got a preview of his *DEEP SPACE NINE* experience when he underwent eight days of the makeup process to play Letek, the first-ever Ferengi, in "The Last Outpost" also during *THE NEXT GENERATION*'s first season. Casting director Junie Lowry-Johnson hired Shimerman for both assignments in 1987, as well as for a second season Ferengi role in "Peak Performance." Five years later, she remembered the actor when it came time to cast Quark.

"When I did the Wedding Box, Junie guaranteed me there would be another role later on. Usually, in TV, when you do one role on a series you can't come back for at least three years. Five years later, Junie thought of me for Quark," he says. "She was kind enough to bring me in and push for me to play Quark. I can't thank her enough."

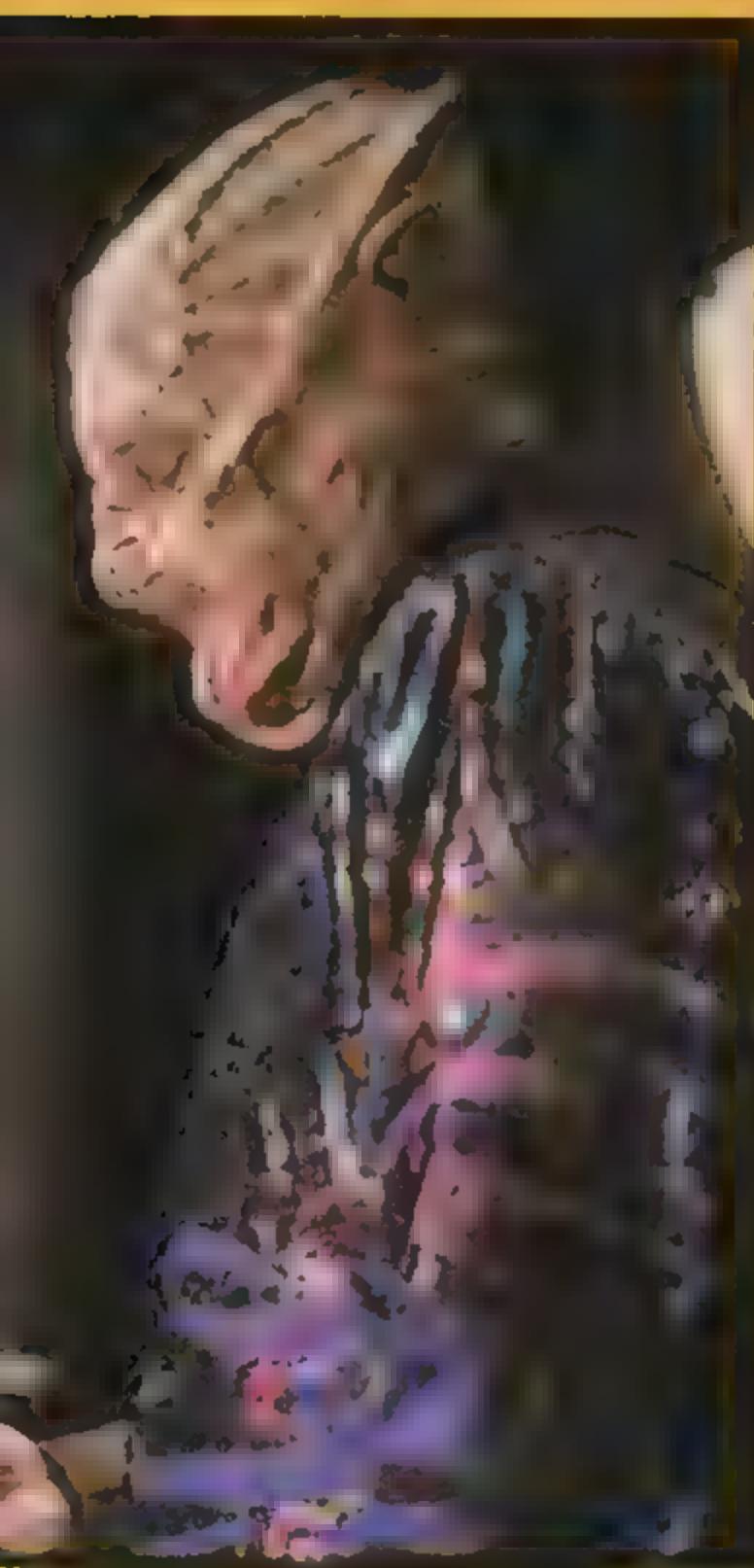
Having appeared on both *THE NEXT GENERATION* and now *DEEP SPACE NINE*, Shimerman is perhaps as qualified as anyone to compare and contrast the two programs. "The similarities have to do with the producers, Rick Berman and

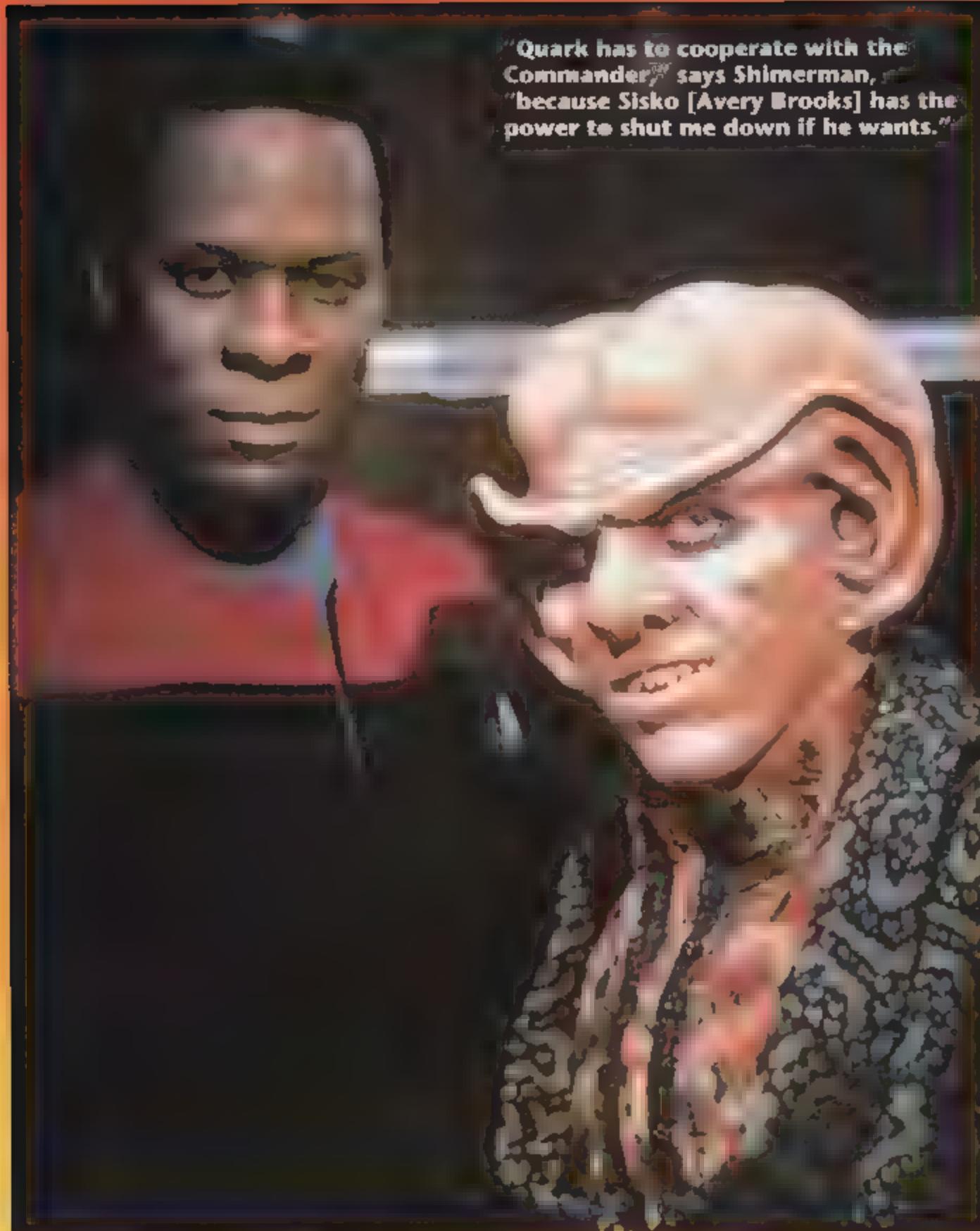
Michael Piller, who head up both shows. We have many of the same writers and some of the same crew and directors, too. *DEEP SPACE NINE* is different from *THE NEXT GENERATION* because we can do many things they couldn't. Here, we have that built-in conflict between the characters that's ripe for drama every week. The *Enterprise* is pristine, comfortable and almost self-cleaning. Our space station went through a revolution and it looks and feels like it," he says, pointing his orange-painted hand gingerly at the dark, far-from-pristine sets around him. "We're in the process of cleaning it up now. We're just trying to understand it, actually. Cardassians built it, and it's very confusing to Sisko and the other Starfleet people."

"Early on, Quark will be the show's comic relief."

"We also don't have to worry about the Prime Directive as much as they do. We have a very strong woman who's second-in-command. We're at the edge of the frontier dealing with frontier types, which are quite different from the more sophisticated types the *Enterprise* encounters on *THE NEXT GENERATION*. There are many differences already, and I'm sure we'll see more."

Born and raised in Lakewood, New Jersey, Shimerman moved with his family to Los Angeles at age 17, positive a career in law was his calling. A distant relative on his mother's side was involved in community theater and young Shimerman reluctantly





"Quark has to cooperate with the Commander," says Shimerman, "because Sisko [Avery Brooks] has the power to shut me down if he wants."

That was a great education, fun and a wonderful experience. I also did six episodes of *Brooklyn Bridge*, which was a show I adored. I played Cousin Bernie. And I'm very sorry that show just never caught on the way it deserved. I had many friends who worked on it. I did a science-fiction movie in Italy called *Arena*, in which I went through the same type of makeup process I'm doing here. I've really been blessed with work."

**"Q is the last
and I am the
lastbreath."**

His impressive résumé now includes Quark on *DEEP SPACE NINE*, a role that could be with Armin Shimerman for a long time to come, especially if the show "catches lightning in a bottle" for the third time. He is well aware of what being part of the *TREK* universe means. There are the fans and the *TREK* legacy, the conventions and show-related products. In addition to an actor's favorite benefit, a regular paycheck, there's even the possibility of films in the *DEEP SPACE* future. "It's a dream come true to be a part of this. It's a dream come true that I can beam up, that I can be part of the legend that I watched as a child, that I revisited when *THE NEXT GENERATION* came on. Those shows were history long before *DEEP SPACE NINE* was even created. Now," he concludes, "I'm a part of all that." 

agreed to participate. "My mother forced me into it," he says, laughing a most un-Ferengi laugh. "She didn't think I was making enough friends. She regrets it to this day. That's where it all got started for me. I did leads in high school and in college [at U.C.L.A.]. I'm one of the lucky, lucky people, who has done nothing but perform. I had my waiter job for a very short time. I've always made a living acting, something for which I'm very grateful and sometimes surprised. There are many talented actors who could be here today instead of me. I'm very lucky and very thankful."

Equally at home on the theater stage and film and TV soundstages, Shimerman's many roles have included the Broadway productions of *I Remember Mama*, *St. Joan* and *Three Penny Opera*, as well as guest appearances on such TV series as *Married with Children*, *L.A. Law*, *Cop Rock* and *Who's the Boss?* "I was also Pascal on *Beauty & the Beast* for two-and-a-half years," says the actor, who lives with his actress wife in the LA area. "*Beauty & the Beast* was my first contact with fantasy television and a lot of things like conventions and makeup.



A humorous truce exists between Security Officer Odo (René Auberjonois) and Quark, longtime antagonists.



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Science Officer

DYLAN SPELLMAN



Terry Farrell knew Michael Dorn and had worked with Jonathan Frakes nearly a decade ago. She and Marina Sirtis had a mutual friend. So, it seemed only natural that Farrell would one day wind up before the *STAR TREK* cameras.

Instead of appearing on *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*, however, Farrell landed the coveted role of Jadzia Dax, a Starfleet Lieutenant and Science Officer aboard the decimated, inhospitable Cardassian-built space station that's the central locale of the saga's *DEEP SPACE NINE*. *STAR TREK:*

In fact, Farrell spent so much time over on the *NEXT GENERATION* soundstages, while filming several auditions for *DEEP SPACE NINE*'s producers, that the actress befriended virtually the entire cast. "I would be talking with Jonathan by his trailer when Patrick [Stewart] or Brent [Spiner] would come by, so we would all talk. I met LeVar [Burton] and we talked for a while, too. He let me ride his bicycle around the lot," says the actress. "I just went to his wedding, which was great. The *NEXT GENERATION* and *DEEP SPACE NINE* stages are right by each other, and because we have to spend so many

hours on the lot and the casts are around each other so much, the process of getting to know people was really accelerated."

Once she was chosen to play Dax, which was actually the last part cast, Farrell found herself working overtime to learn the show's "techno-babble" and film scenes from the pilot ("Emissary") that had been shot around the character until the right actress and the appropriate makeup designs were selected. The actress also voraciously read the *DEEP SPACE NINE* bible, created by Rick Berman and Michael Piller, to discover more about her character.

"It was definitely overwhelming in the beginning, but now I'm getting the hang of it all. Dax is a Trill," she explains of her character, who sports distinguishing leopard-like spots along the side of her head and neck that take two hours each day to apply. "On my planet, a long time ago, there was an environmental disaster. At that time, the symbionts weren't symbionts. They lived in the earth and the humanoids lived up on the planet's surface. Because of the disaster, the two species had to get together just to survive. Over time, we became interdependent on each other. The humanoid body doesn't outlive the invertebrate, so they perform a ceremony of honor in which you become a Trill. An old invertebrate will go inside a new humanoid body."

As a result, a serene, mature, 300-year-old invertebrate that looks something like a large worm lives inside Lieutenant Dax's 28-year-old humanoid body, making Dax one of the youngest, yet wisest, beings aboard *DS9*. "The worm is androgynous to the point that it can adjust to the body it's put into," she says. "The last body I was in was a man's and now I'm in a female's. She has six or seven lifetimes of experience. Dax uses all of that and is very protective of everyone on the space station. As an actress, I just try to look to the oldest, most mature part of myself when I play her. They also gave me a tape of 'The Host' [a fourth-season *NEXT GENERATION* episode that introduced the Trill], which I watched several times. That was really very helpful to me."

Though Farrell was a big fan of the original *STAR TREK* series growing up, she knew little about *THE NEXT GENERATION* before entering the *TREK* universe herself. "I used to watch the original *STAR TREK* all the time when I was a little kid. I remember my grandmother made me a Tribble, which I kept by my TV in my room. But I had only watched *THE NEXT GENERATION* a couple of times," she admits. "I really don't watch that much TV in general. Now, I've made it a point to watch *NEXT GENERATION* more often.

"The first show was very campy and very funny. *THE NEXT GENERATION* is about a group of loving people who get along really well. They don't have that many conflicts amongst themselves. On *DEEP SPACE NINE*, we do have that kind



of conflict. I also think our show is much darker. We're cleaning up after a war. The sets are darker, all grey. It's a much more industrial place to be than the *Enterprise*, more of a hands-on existence. The *Enterprise* is all clean and things are really nice there, until people invade them or they go to other places. We'll also be going to some other places, but most of the time people will come to us, which will give us even more conflict. We have a whole community on the space station."

That conflict, of course, will be exacerbated by the variety of peoples aboard DS9, which serves as home to a mix of Starfleet and non-Starfleet beings. Those with whom Dax has most of her dealings include Commander Sisko (Avery Brooks), Chief Operations Officer Miles



Although physically attracted to Dr. Julian Bashir (Siddig El Fadil), Dax constantly fights off the specter of romance.

O'Brien (Colm Meaney) and Dr. Julian Bashir (Siddig El Fadil), all Starfleet officers. The contingent of space station regulars who don't belong to the Federation include shape-shifting Security Chief Odo (Rene Auberjonois), Bajoran First Officer Major Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor) and the leering Ferengi bartender, Quark (Armin Shimerman), who is in a perpetual state of lust for Dax.

"Dax was Commander Sisko's mentor in her last host body, an old man. So, that enables me to sort of look out for him and protect him emotionally. We'll share looks," notes Farrell, "and those are 'look inside yourself' looks that I give him. I'm trying to tell him he knows the right answer and that he must search inside himself to find it. Then, Michael Piller and Rick Berman will put the right answer into words for us."

"I'm always telling Kira to relax."

"O'Brien and I work side by side in Ops. His console is right by mine. What's fun to play is that he's much more impatient with Bashir than I am. I find Bashir very amusing, but he makes O'Brien a little nervous. Bashir will say wild things like, 'There's a spy on the space station!' and O'Brien and I will share an, 'OK, here we go again' look. Then, we'll try to figure out if Bashir is right or not."

One thing Bashir is definitely *not* right about are his chances of sharing a romantic interlude with the lovely Science Officer. "I try to tell him I'm a Trill and that we don't have romance the same way humans do. The Trill try to rise above such things. Sex is meant for procreation, not for enjoyment. That





Photo: Kim Gottlieb Walker

Dax always looks out for and emotionally protects Sisko (Avery Brooks). After all, in her previous host body, she was Sisko's mentor.

"I'm always telling Kira to relax. She's Bajoran, so she has conflicts with all of us and how we see the world. Last night we shot a great scene where she tells me someone needs to use some of Dax's meditation techniques because he's a little tense. I say, 'You could use them, too, you know.' It was such a great moment. If looks could kill. It was very funny. So, I'm always telling her to loosen up. Hopefully, they'll develop that relationship between us. They've talked about Nana and I having scenes of what they're calling female bonding, which I think would be great."

As for Quark, Farrell laughs at the mere mention of his name. "He's always teasing me and flirting with me," she reports. "Apparently, there will be a Ferengi gambling game that only the Ferengis and I know how to play. So, I guess I'll be going down there once in a while to gamble with Quark and the boys. Quark and Dax will be seeing a lot of each other, which should be fun."

Farrell was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and began her career as a fashion model. During her two-and-a-half year stint before photographers' cameras, Farrell graced the covers of such renowned magazines as *Vogue* and *Mademoiselle*, among others. At the same time, she studied acting in both New York and Los Angeles. Those acting classes paid dividends when she won the role of Laurie Caswell on *Paper Dolls*, a short-lived series about modeling, during which she worked with Jonathan Frakes.

Other TV credits include appearances

on *Family Ties*, *The Cosby Show* and *Grapevine*, as well as episodes of such genre productions as *The Twilight Zone*, *Quantum Leap* and the pilot for the American version of the popular British series, *Red Dwarf*. Farrell counts among her film credits *Back to School*, opposite Keith (Christine) Gordon, and the starring role of the Pinhead-battling TV reporter Joey Summerskill in *Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth*.

"That crazy game of love is not on my agenda."

Now, there's *DEEP SPACE NINE*, an opportunity for which Terry Farrell is eternally grateful. "I was so freaked out when I got the part," she enthuses, "I was so overwhelmed. It was like, 'Oh, my God! This show is the second spin-off of a legend I watched when I was a kid.' It's really a living legend. I can't wait. *STAR TREK* is such an optimistic view of what the world could be like in the future. People aren't prejudiced. They love each other for what's going on inside. They try to deal as best they can with problems going on outside. That is very optimistic, and it should be that way now. *STAR TREK* says, 'Hey! We're going to be here in the 24th Century and we'll be getting along and we'll be doing exciting things.' People are excited by that. I know I am."



Photo: Danny Feld

crazy game of love is not on my agenda," says Farrell, "but I do think Dax is physically attracted to him. That's easy, because the doctor is a handsome young man, but I fight against it. So, there's a little conflict in me about him. I tell him, 'You're cute, but you're too young for me.' Then, he'll say something sweet and be so insistent, but I have to keep brushing him off.

"Right now my relationship with Odo is just beginning. I feel very protective of him and I know something about where he is from, which is a mystery to him. But I can't tell him, even though I want to. We shot a scene where I know this information he should know, but I just can't tell him. I was standing there, wanting to tell him. Hopefully, we'll develop our relationship in the future.



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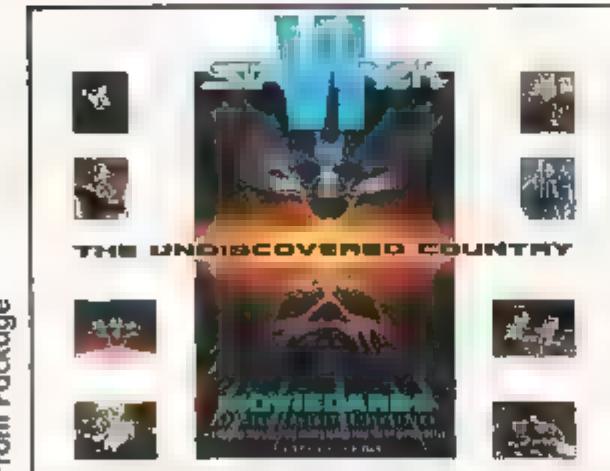
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Siddig El Fadil

Doctor

A black and white portrait of Siddig El Fadil, an actor, looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. He has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt.

r. Julian Bashir. What can I tell you about him? Let's see," says Siddig El Fadil, the 26-year-old actor who portrays the character on *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE*. "Bashir is a young doctor. He's just graduated from the Starfleet Medical Academy, where he did very well. He's brilliant at multi-species medicine. He has a Zenist attitude about life. He's completely overenthusiastic about *everything* in life, about women, about exploring new planets, about hunting down fugitives and things like that, which aren't his to worry about, if you know what I mean.

"He finds all of that action very exciting and is, therefore, probably a bit of a liability to have around on the space station. He's all go and he means incredibly well, but he does screw up on occasion, which is probably caused by his naiveté. I will say, in his defense, that he takes his work very seriously and is very good at it. He does learn from his mistakes. He's learning all the time. If he does something wrong once, he won't do it wrong again. We just did an episode about a spy ("Past Prologue"). Bashir will know what to look for the next time. So, he'll slowly get a little wiser and more cautious as the show goes on. As a character, he has miles to go. He's on the space station, because it's in the farthest reaches of the galaxy. It's right out there."

"Anything can happen. It's an extraordinary place, to be near the wormhole, this exciting new discovery that leads to galaxies that are even farther away. Bashir thinks—he knows that this will be total excitement for him," he continues. "Being a part of a landing team, being the first person on a planet, that's all heaven for Bashir and exactly what he's looking for. He's starting so fresh. He has his whole life ahead of him."

"What might influence him, what he might fall in love with, is all fresh, uncharted territory. As an actor, that's terrific for me. He'll keep growing and I can play that for a long time."

The role of the doctor, of course, is a key one on the series, as it was on both previous *STAR TREK* incarnations, though no one will ever mistake Bashir for Dr.

Leonard McCoy (DeForest Kelley), Dr. Beverly Crusher (Gates McFadden) or Dr. Kate Pulaski (Diana Muldaur). In time, Dr. Bashir will, in some way, have dealings with all of the main characters aboard the claustrophobic space station, among them Commander Benjamin Sisko (Avery Brooks), Science Officer Jadzia Dax (Terry Farrell), Security Officer Odo (Rene Auberjonois), First Officer Kira Nerys (Nana Visitor), Ferengi bartender Quark (Armin Shimerman), Sisko's 14 year-old son Jake (Cirroc Lofton), and Bashir's main antagonist, Chief Operations Officer and former *Enterprise* Transporter Chief Miles O'Brien (Colm Meaney).

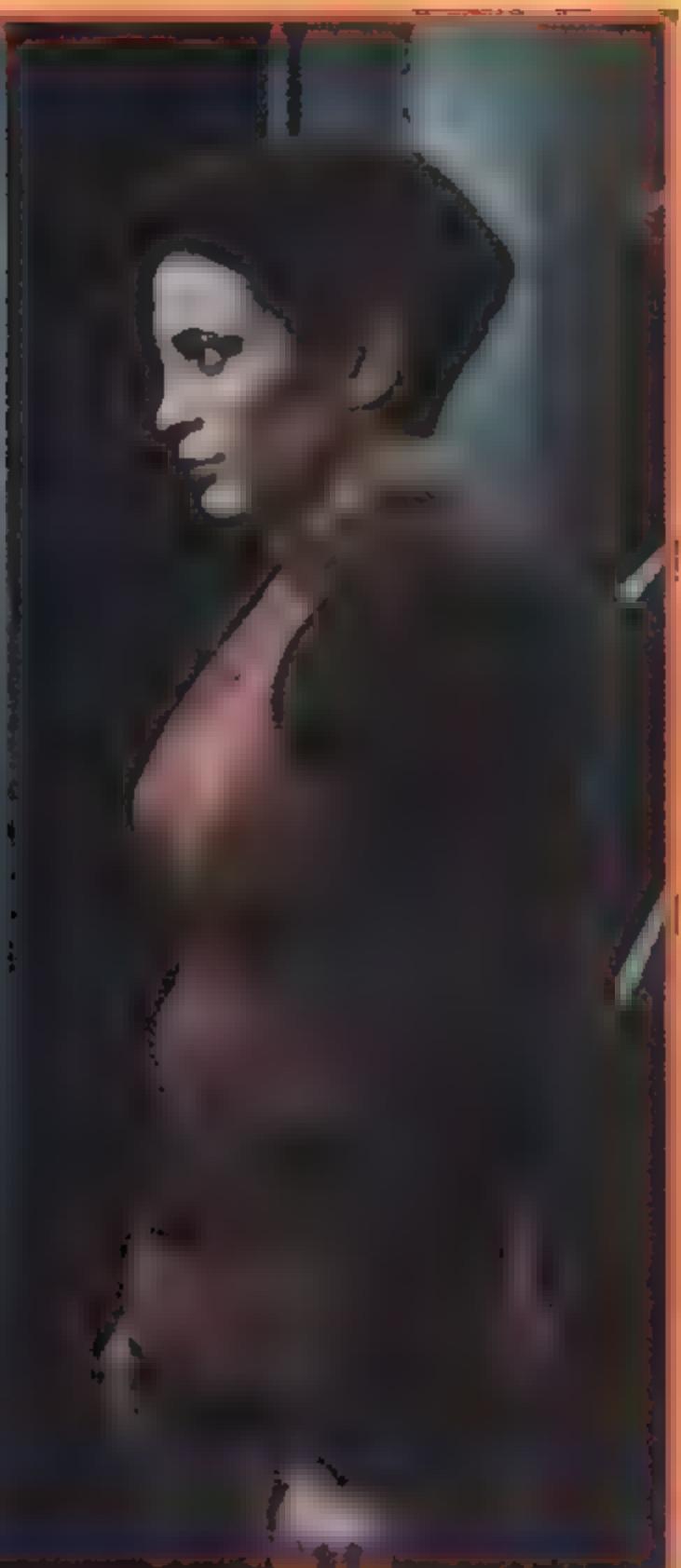
Right now, only about half-a-dozen episodes into *DEEP SPACE NINE*, Bashir's most fleshed-out relationships are those with Dax, a beautiful and wizened Trill, who thinks he's cute, but far too young and much too human to consider as a potential romantic interest; Commander Sisko, who serves as an authoritative father figure trying to hone Bashir's talents and calm him down without diminishing the boyish enthusiasm and confidence that make him ideal Starfleet material; and O'Brien and Kira, both of who think the doctor's tendency to jump to conclusions and overreact to intense situations might endanger everyone aboard DS9, which is already enough of a high-pressure, nerve-fraying place without Bashir. As a result, O'Brien and the Major are quite distrustful of the youthful medic and they treat him accordingly.



In all matters except medicine, both O'Brien (Colm Meaney) and Major Kira (Nana Visitor) distrust Dr. Bashir (El Fadil).



"Bashir has a mad crush on Dax [Terry Farrell]," El Fadil reports. "Who wouldn't?"



Chief O'Brien doesn't like Bashir's arrogance at all. He finds my naiveté a liability. He gets worried, very visibly, when my character is chosen to do something with responsibility, anything, really, outside medicine. O'Brien's very quick to put me in my place.

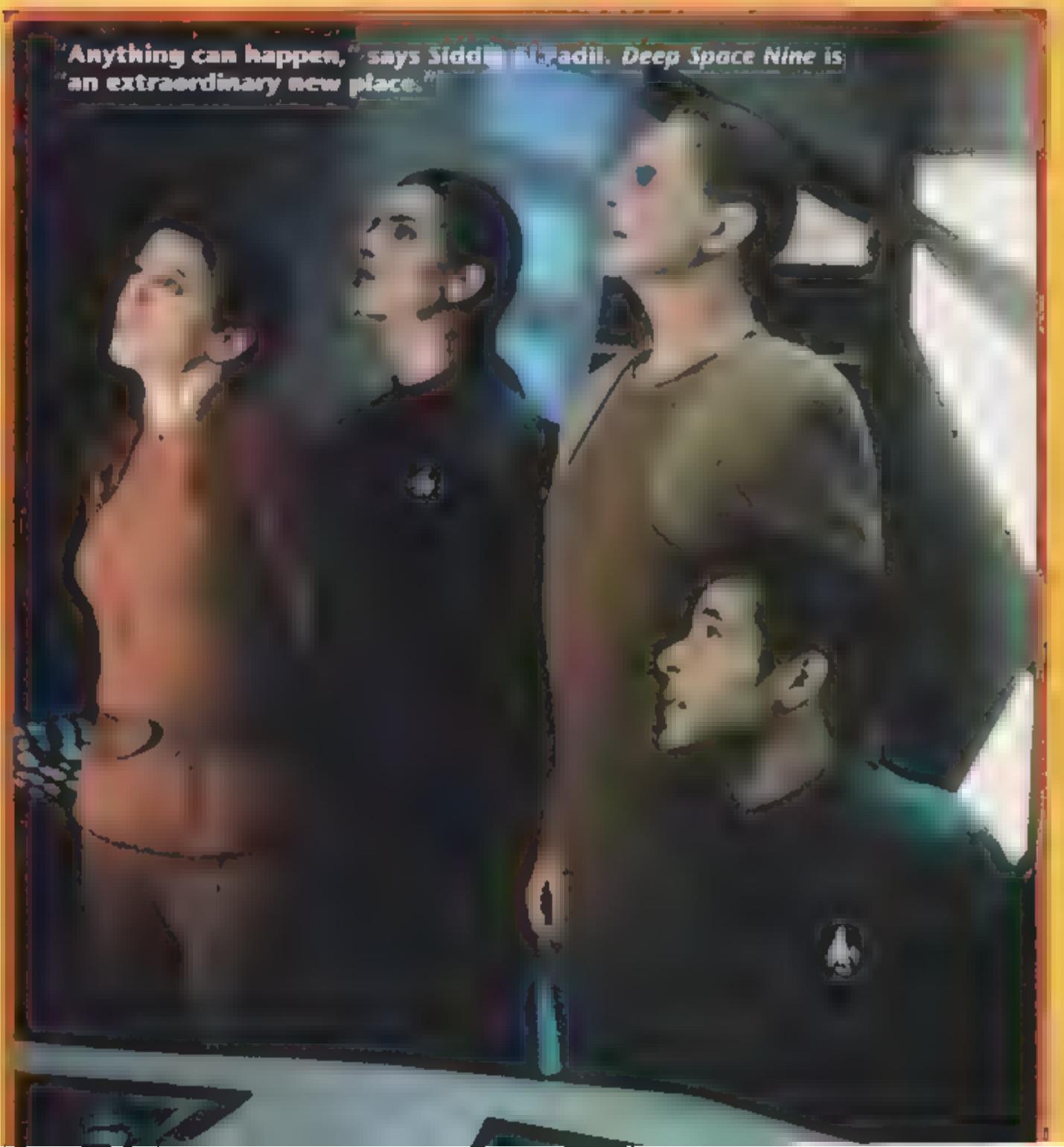
"Major Kira is the same way. She has the same slight suspicion of me. Odo, the police chief, does warm to me a little bit early on. He sees I'm just a young guy and he must understand that. I think they'll all warm to me in time," he continues. "Bashir means well and he's not competitive at all with anyone. They all understand that. They know he's just fresh out of Starfleet, so I'm sure they'll give him a chance to prove himself, give him a crack at it."

Siddig El Fadil was born in the Sudan of British parentage and moved with his family to England soon after his birth. He has never returned to the Sudan, the result of hundreds of revolutions which have made the region too unsafe to visit. Instead, he went through a classic British schooling, which included prep school, public school and a year at University College at London, during which "I got thrown out for doing nothing," he says, laughing. "After that I worked for a couple of years at a gentleman's clothier, which is a rather grand term for a men's clothes shop. I left that job because I wanted to be a director.

Photo: Danny Feld

Bashir looks up at the space station's commander, Benjamin Sisko (Avery Brooks).

"I went to acting school, ostensibly to learn how to direct. I had already been interested in acting, but not seriously so. I left school, directed a show and then studied acting. I played a baddie in a pantomime. I played a guard on a stage for three hours. That bored the living daylights out of me. I swore then that I would never act again and I went to carry on with my directing. I had no money, nothing. Finally,



'Anything can happen,' says Siddig El Fadil. Deep Space Nine is an extraordinary new place.'

"Bashir has a mad crush on Dax," says the actor in his heavy British accent which transforms a "mad crush" into a "mahd" crush. "Who wouldn't? He's very respectful of Commander Sisko, and he has a very Commander-junior officer relationship with him. He looks up to the Commander. Dax was the Commander's mentor when she was in

"Bashir will keep growing and I can play that for a long time."

a different host body, so he and Bashir talk together about Dax all the time, rather intimately. I can just go to him whenever and he'll give me advice.

"Dax is very wary of him and puts him off, but he'll keep on trying, which is fine with me. She's not sure about relationships. It's all new for her to be in a beautiful body, which is alien to her.



Odo (Rene Auberjonois) is much warmer to Bashir than O'Brien. "I think they'll all warm to me in time," the actor predicts.

somebody phoned me and said they would give me a job as an actor. That was a show called *Big Battalions*, a six-part mini-series that will soon be on in England. I play a young Palestinian. I'm sure it will play here, too.

"Then, I got King Faisal, a secondary role in *A Dangerous Man, Lawrence After Arabia*. That came out first, actually, before *Big Battalions*," the actor explains. "It played here on PBS and I think it was one of the lowest-rated PBS shows ever, but that's the one that [DEEP SPACE NINE co-creator/co-executive producer] Rick Berman saw me in, thank God. Rick's probably one of the few people who saw it. That's what made him think of me for DEEP SPACE NINE. So, I can thank that film and its great lighting and direction for me being here now. I'm just glad Rick saw it. It's one of those weird paradoxes."

Oddly enough, there was another strange twist of fate that ultimately led to El Fadil's casting as DEEP SPACE NINE's brash young doctor. Just over a year ago, without really being that much of a fan of either the original STAR TREK or STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, the actor informed his agent that he wasn't particularly interested in committing to a series, but that he would like to do STAR TREK if ever the opportunity arose. "I was just fresh out of drama school, talking snobbishly and naively, like Bashir. I had only seen one or two of THE NEXT GENERATION," he recalls. "A year later, it was almost to the day, she called me to say, 'Go at 10 a.m. tomorrow for your STAR TREK screen test.'

"The night before I had been hit by a guy, so I had a black eye. I was packing ice on it all night long, as you can imagine, trying to get the swelling to go down. It was very funny. I went to the interview the next day and I just did it.

Within a week, I was told to fly to Los Angeles to test for the people here. I came to the screen test before what seemed to me at the time like hundreds of studio executives. There were really only about 15. And I did my thing, complaining bitterly all along about being dragged out here for three lines. Then, at the end of that, I was told I had the job. Of course, I went back home to London, packed my case, and came right back here."

Here, for however long DEEP SPACE NINE runs, is California, a fast-paced, culturally-rich and diverse city which El Fadil is just now discovering. Much like Bashir, who chose DS9, because it was at the far reaches of the universe and seemed infinitely exciting, El Fadil is up to the unique challenge he has created for

himself. "I really do like the job, so, to me, being here is like being on location for a really long time. That's how I look at it. I've begun to make a few friends, many of them English, most of them women, oddly enough, which is great," he says with a laugh and a broad smile, as the conversation comes to a close in his trailer just outside the DEEP SPACE NINE soundstages. "The more friends I make, the more I'll enjoy America. That seems natural to me. I may go home to London and work during our hiatuses, but I live in West Hollywood and so far, so good."

Looking to the future, El Fadil realizes DEEP SPACE NINE and Dr. Bashir may be with him for a very long time to come.

"O'Brien's very quick to put me in my place."

Still, the prospect of talking about his character and DEEP SPACE NINE movies two or three decades down the line is, at best, a daunting one. "That might be my fate and if so, fine, but I would really love to be talking about what I'm doing at the time. I probably will be talking about STAR TREK because it may have a long-lasting impact, but I hope it'll be just one of many things I do in my career," says Siddig El Fadil, who was all of age three when TREK classic went off the air. "I don't care one way or the other. I actually don't give a damn. I just want to see what happens. I never really plan anything, anyway and everything just sort of happens. It has always been that way in my life."

"As a character, Bashir has miles to go," El Fadil says. So does young Jake Sisko (Cirroc Lofton).

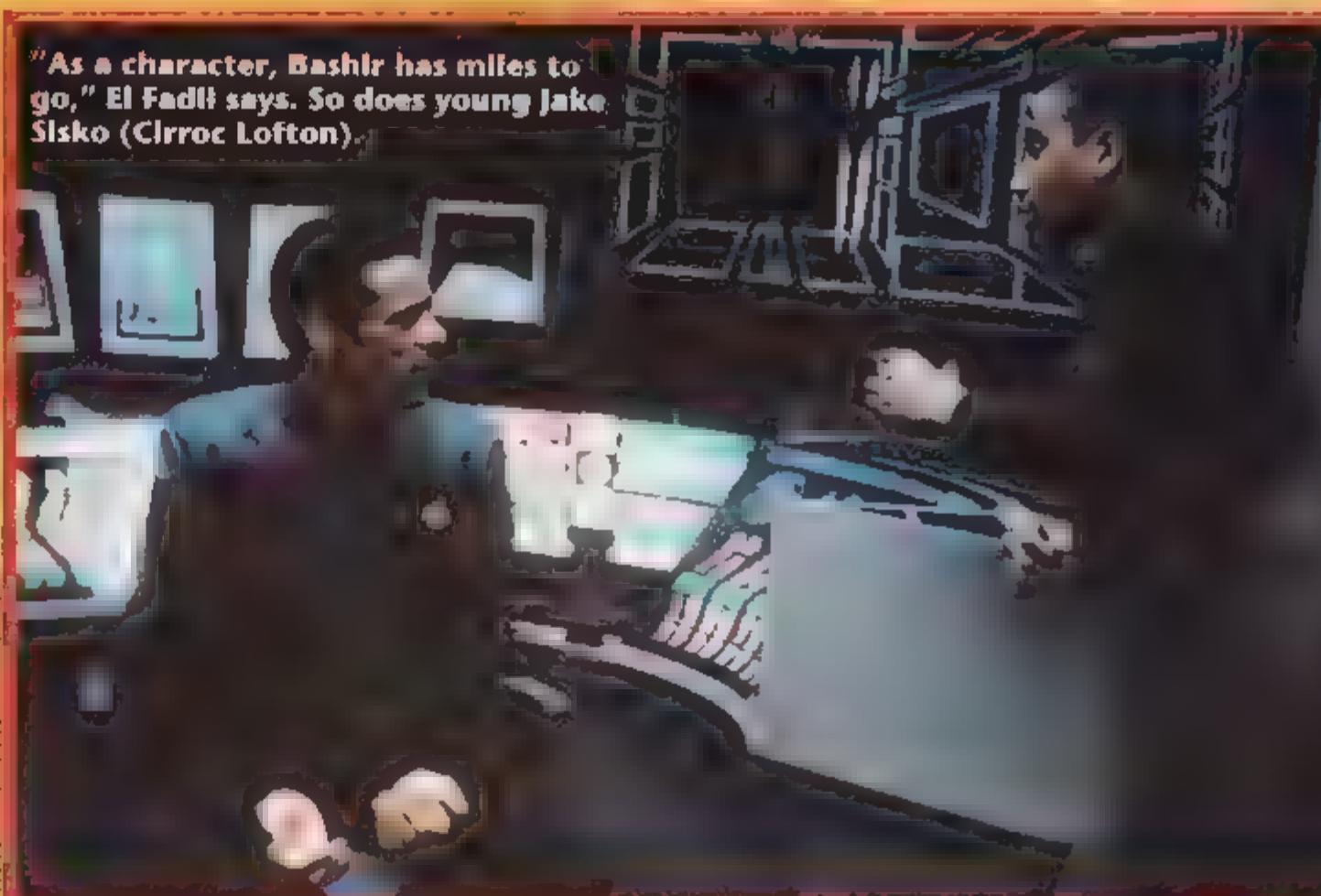


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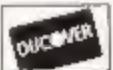
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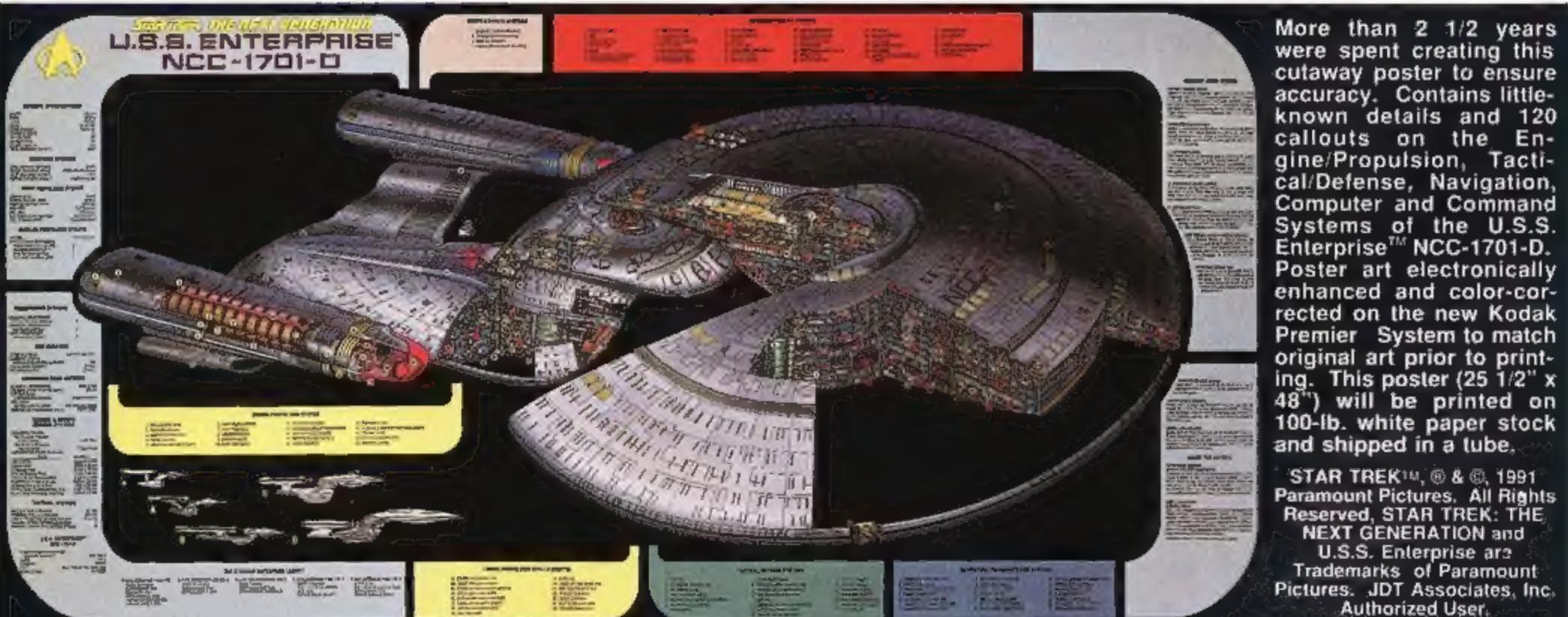
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